

UNRWA considers more cuts in foreign staff if 2 Scandinavians not freed

BEIRUT (Agencies) — U.N. officials said Monday they were considering making more cuts among international aid staff in Lebanon if two kidnapped Scandinavian workers were not freed.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) spokesman Niall Kieley told Reuters that the aid agency withdrew one Irishman Saturday, one day after two staff were evacuated to Cyprus and four others, away on leave, were told not to return. UNRWA has 14 international staff in Lebanon.

"We are considering further reductions," he said. He said the agency director in Lebanon, Per Olof Hallquist, would stay in Beirut to follow efforts being made to free Swede Jan Stening, 44, and Norwegian William Joergensen, 57.

Palestinian gunmen kidnapped the two Feb. 5 near the southern port of Sidon.

Kieley said the hostages were victim to inter-Palestinian rivalry, but would not elaborate.

Security sources said the kidnapping was the result of a power feud in the Fatah group of Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

They said the man who planned the abduction was accused of killing a senior Fatah official at Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp last August, sparking a feud between him and Arafat.

"The man, who has a few hundred guerrillas around him, wants to challenge Arafat," said one source.

Palestinian sources at Ain Al Hilweh said Arafat was in daily contact by telephone with this

man and expected the two Scandinavians to be released within 48 hours.

They said Arafat had suspended the man after the August killing "but now there are indications he will give him back his responsibilities which is a positive sign that reinforces the chances for an early release of the two."

Arafat, who enjoys wide following at Ain Al Hilweh, was apparently embarrassed by the kidnapping and issued orders to his officials in the south to work for the release of the two.

Fateh officials threatened to use force to free the captives and Arafat was quoted last Saturday as saying Fateh forces were surrounding the kidnappers' hideout but had not stormed it at the request of the kidnappers' governments.

UNRWA in Lebanon employs more than 2,000 Palestinians who held a one-day strike Monday to protest at the kidnappings. The agency provides aid to 280,000 refugees.

An unnamed clandestine group Saturday said it kidnapped the two for "security reasons," was interrogating them and would release them in a week if proven innocent.

The undated handwritten statement carried purported fingerprints and signatures, which UNRWA officials said resembled those of the missing men but they were being checked.

UNRWA sources said Stening's wife confirmed the signature on the statement was that of her husband.

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Valentines for hostages

Meanwhile the Lebanese daily newspaper As Safir Monday published Valentine's Day greetings addressed to American hostages Terry Anderson and other foreign captives.

In a front-page report, the newspaper said: "The senders wish their messages would reach the hostages and that the captors will see them and free the captives whose parents and friends are waiting impatiently for their release."

As Safir said its staff joins the senders' appeal for the release of all 22 captives believed held by pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim extremists.

Most of the 150 messages the newspaper received Sunday were addressed to Anderson, the longest-held foreigner. Anderson, 40, of Lorain, Ohio is chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press. He was kidnapped on March 16, 1985.

In a video-taped message released by his captors on Christmas Eve, Anderson said he had seen some Christmas cards sent to him printed in As Safir and the independent newspaper An Nahar.

very comfortable if what is going on is not stopped.

"In both cases Israel will be the loser. It must be careful."

The interview published by the Moroccan News Agency (MAP) was given on the eve of a state visit to Morocco by Queen Margrethe of Denmark. She was due to arrive in the southern city of Marrakesh later Monday.

"The young people and populations of these territories will either be very bad Israelis, if Israel really wants to annex them, or neighbours who will not be

Qadhafi denies seeking to kill Reagan

NEW YORK (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, in an interview published Sunday, denied reports he once planned to send a hit squad after President Reagan.

But Qadhafi told Newsweek magazine Washington must end its meddling in the Middle East and warned he would strike in Northern Ireland, Nicaragua and Panama if the Reagan administration interfered in Israel, Angola or Chad.

"I never even thought of assassinating Reagan," Qadhafi said. The Libyan leader said he had been the target of assassination attempts, but "none of them have come near me — yet."

Qadhafi was interviewed in Algiers, where he was attending talks about joining Algeria, Mauritania and Tunisia in a

brotherhood of harmony."

Asked about a ship seized by France last October with 150 tonnes of arms believed bound for the outlawed Irish Republican Army, Qadhafi declared his "total support" of the "people of Northern Ireland."

The only way Americans can be secure is to get out of the Middle East for good, he said.

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It was not known whether the Palma will be replaced.

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The Kuwaiti ships, flying American flags so they could fall under U.S. protection, were the tankers Ocean City and Surf City and the liquefied gas carriers Gas King and Gas Queen.

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Jordan spent JD 60m on road construction in 1987

RIYADH (Petra) — Jordan last year spent a total of JD 60 million on road construction, up from JD 2 million in 1975, and the total length of roads in the Kingdom now stands at 8,000 kilometres, Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh said here Monday.

Addressing a regional meeting of the International Road Transport Union (IRU) in Riyadh, Zawaideh said that Jordan was going ahead with plans and programmes for building roads that will meet the objectives of its development schemes.

He said that during the current 1986-1990 five-year plan the government will build and improve 400 kilometre length of main roads and 300 kilometre length of secondary roads. It will also open 500 kilometre length of agricultural roads with the hope of facilitating the transportation of crops.

The road construction programme, the minister noted, is also aimed at completing a national network of roads that can cater for the needs of agricultural, touristic and demographic needs, and help promote transit operations to facilitate trade transactions among Arab countries.

Studies have shown that nearly 64 per cent of traffic in the Kingdom manifests itself along main roads and highways and 31 per cent on the secondary roads, and that the main highways carry nearly 84 per cent of the total transported goods inside the Kingdom, the minister pointed out.

Zawaideh referred to the government's new regulations which are designed to reduce damage to roads as a result of heavy axial weights, and said that the new roads are constructed with high quality materials ensuring safety for the vehicles and the public.

Participants from 45 Arab and foreign countries and nearly 1,500 experts on roads and transportation from different nations are taking part in the conference which will discuss 70 working papers dealing with roads and affiliated issues.

The group represents also Royal Jordanian the national air carrier, the Ministry of Tourism and the Jordan Hotels Association.

Jordan to take part in Paris tourist exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in an international tourist exhibition due to open in Paris Thursday.

The week-long exhibition will display books, pamphlets, documentary films and other material highlighting Jordan's tourist centres and archaeological sites.

A Jordanian delegation group-

ing representatives of various tourist businesses and agencies in Jordan left Monday to handle Jordan's pavilion at the exhibition.

The group represents also Royal Jordanian the national air carrier, the Ministry of Tourism and the Jordan Hotels Association.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent receives 2 new envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Newly appointed ambassadors to Jordan, Anthony Reeve of the United Kingdom, and Zoran Popovic of Yugoslavia, Monday presented their credentials at the Royal Court to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, in the presence of Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and the secretary general of the Royal Court.

Ajlouni meets with Italian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism Zuhair Al Ajlouni Monday discussed with Italian Ambassador in Amman Dr. Luigi Amaduzzi bilateral cooperation in the field of tourism and ways of bolstering this cooperation. Discussions also centred on organising Italian tourist groups to visit archaeological and historical sites in Jordan. The two sides also discussed bilateral cooperation in hotel training field and the exchange of expertise.

Educational team hold talks in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Iraqi Education Minister Abdul Qader Izziddin met here Monday with a Jordanian educational delegation currently visiting Iraq. The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and cooperation in educational fields.

Tabbaa', Iraqi envoy discuss trade

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Al Tabbaa' Monday reviewed with Iraqi Ambassador in Amman Ghafar Jassim Hussain, trade and economic relations between Jordan and Iraq. They also discussed increasing the volume of trade exchange through protocols for economic cooperation signed between the two countries.

Madaba development plan reviewed

MADABA (Petra) — Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin Monday visited Madaba and met with its district governor Khalil Khreisat to discuss development projects in the Madaba district. Khreisat said that he discussed projects included in the current 1986-1990 five-year plan which entails investing JD 51 million. This year a total of JD 8.59 million will be spent on projects in the Madaba district. Both Amin and Khreisat later paid a visit to the Ma'in spa complex which cost JD 13 million.



REGENT VISITS GHQ: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday visits the army headquarters in Amman and meets with Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Taleb. The meeting is also attended by a number of high ranking officers (Petra photo)

Handicraft centre to open in Salt

AMMAN (Petra-J.T.) — The Nour Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) in cooperation with the Salt Development Corporation (SDC) has finalised preparations for the opening and operating of a national handicraft centre in Salt which has been set up with the help of the Italian government.

A NHF announcement said that syllabuses, programmes, educational plans and equipment are now ready for the centre's operation.

The centre is the first of its kind in the Kingdom to help promote traditional handicrafts, encourage domestic tourism and find employment for local inhabitants.

Italy has provided JD 600,000 worth of equipment as a gift for the centre which adjoins the Salt Cultural Centre run by the SDC.

The centre was visited last November by Mrs. Mariapia Fanfani, a prominent international relief worker and wife of Italian Interior Minister Amintore Fanfani.

According to Dr. Eideh Al Mitlaq, the NHF's coordinator for the centre's programmes, the Italian government's gift is expected to be increased to \$1.5 million.

The centre, which is expected to open in September 1988, will

provide training to local women in weaving, ceramics and other traditional crafts. It will also help market the products, Mitlaq noted.

The NHF will take over the responsibility of supervising the centre and its management and will hold its first training course on Feb. 20, Mitlaq added.

She said at least 15 people will be trained in the centre for a period of six months to become instructors. These instructors are expected to offer training to the students later on, a full training course would extend to three years.

Amman conference discusses priorities in medical education

AMMAN (Petra-J.T.) — A regional conference on medical education continued its meetings at the University of Jordan Monday, with the participants discussing three subjects dealing with relations between medical education and health welfare, different medical educational stages and priorities in medical education.

The World Federation of Medical Education President, Professor Henry Walton, who is attending the conference, paid tribute to the information media, covering the conference and said no conference can succeed without active participation by the

media, which provides the public with information about the deliberations.

Walton described the Amman conference as one of the most successful ever held in the Arab region.

The objective of the four-day conference, which opened Sunday, is to form recommendations on reforming medical education based on local needs, according to Dr. Kandil Shaker from the organising committee.

He said that participants from various countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region are taking part in the conference.

Rain helps farmers in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — Recent rains that fell in the Zarqa Governorate have prompted local farmers to sow seeds in 70,000 dunums of land, according to Agriculture Department Director Mohammad Lawzi.

Lawzi said that most of the seeds sown in the governorate were wheat and barley. Lawzi said that teams from his department last month made 40 tours of agricultural areas to offer guidance to the local farmers on sowing seeds.



ENVOY GETS AWARD: Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri Monday presents the Jordanian Independence Medal of the First Order to outgoing Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Al Baho. The medal was conferred by His Majesty King Hussein. Upon presenting the medal, during an official lunch in Baho's honour, the minister paid tribute to the ambassador for his efforts to promote Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations in all fields. The lunch was attended by Foreign Ministry officials and heads of diplomatic missions in the Kingdom (Petra photo)

Jordan, North Yemen establish technical centre

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian-North Yemeni technical centre was established recently for promoting bilateral, technical, and scientific cooperation and investments in development projects, the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) announced here Monday.

RSS's deputy president for industrial affairs Arafat Tamimi, who made the announcement, said that the two countries have signed documents for the establishment of the one million Yemeni rial centre which will be headquartered in Sanaa, North Yemen.

Tamimi said that the centre will allow the RSS to carry out research work linked to the development process, especially in industrial fields, and will offer technical advice and conduct feasibility studies on various ma-

jor projects, undertaken by the private and the public sectors in North Yemen and Jordan.

The centre will also be empowered to take part in the actual implementation of projects and will present studies on setting up laboratories, or work out programmes for such projects, largely related to industry and the transfer of technology, Tamimi noted.

He said that the creation of the centre came as a result of cooperation between North Yemen and Jordan and in implementation of directives by His Royal

Highness Crown Prince Hassan who is the chairman of the RSS board of trustees.

The centre's capital will be divided into 1,000 nominal shares owned equally by the RSS and the North Yemeni Investment and Finance Corporation, Tamimi noted.

Apart from the headquarters in Sanaa, the two sides decided to set up branches and offices inside Jordan and North Yemen. The headquarters will be governed by a board of four directors from both sides whose number can be increased in the future, Tamimi pointed out.

He said that the centre will have its own bye-laws and statutes, and a general assembly controlling its financial and administrative affairs.

UNDP to finance genetic research lab

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will finance the establishment of a laboratory for genetic research at the University of Jordan's faculty of medicine, in accordance with an agreement signed here Monday.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Planning Taher Kanaana and UNDP representative in Jordan Dr. Ali Atiga.

The project, which is expected to cost \$200,000, entails setting up an integrated laboratory that will also offer training for Jordanian technicians, and will offer consultative services through the help of international experts to the university's research programme.

The agreement stipulates that the projected centre will conduct regional research work and offer services to the countries of the Middle East in fields related to different diseases with genetic



Minister of Planning Taher Kanaana (left) and UNDP representative in Jordan Ali Atiga sign Monday the agreement to establish laboratory for genetic research (Petra photo)

origin. At the signing ceremony, it was announced that Chief Chamber-

160 Jordanian doctors to work in Libya

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from the Libyan Ministry of Health has drawn up contracts with 160 Jordanian doctors to work in Libyan health centres and hospitals, according to a report in the Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday.

The paper said that the contracts have been concluded

through the good offices of the Health Ministry, which maintains contacts with different health ministries in Arab countries to find employment for Jordanian doctors and specialists.

Al Ra'i said the doctors will embark on their jobs in Libya next month.

The paper also reported Jorda-

ian-North Yemeni talks on the prospect of employing Jordanian doctors in Sanaa and other Yemeni cities.

It said that a delegation which includes Health Ministry representatives has arrived in North Yemen for talks which will also cover the prospect of employing Jordanians in other fields.

Expatriates to open centre in Texas

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian community in the American state of Texas is seeking to set up a centre in Dallas to look after the interests of Jordanian expatriates in the American state, and to bolster bridges between them and the motherland.

The project was discussed here Monday by Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat and Hisham Mohammad Saadat, a representative of the Jordanian community in Texas.

Saadat brought the minister a message from the community's chairman Ibrahim Ayyed on the question of the Dallas centre

which the Jordanian community plans to establish. The community, he said, plans to help establish similar centres in other American states.

The minister welcomed the idea and praised the efforts of the Jordanian expatriates in the United States which he described as "a manifestation of their sense of national belonging."

Ureikat said that the Jordanian government, acting upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein, was providing all facilities and care for expatriates.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Development's Depart-

ment of Expatriates Director Azmi Al Muhtaseb earlier met with Saadat and received a message detailing the Jordanian community's activities in the United States.

Muhtaseb also met with a delegation representing Jordanian expatriates in Saudi Arabia who plan to establish a housing society.

The meeting was devoted to discussing facilities to be offered for the expatriates wishing to join the society.

Muhtaseb recently toured the Gulf countries where he discussed expatriates' affairs.

Touring 1929 Morris passes through Aqaba

By Robert Hussein

I WAS stopped in Aqaba city centre like everyone else, amazed by the beauty of a 1929 Morris car. It stood there proudly and successfully challenging the 1980s models as it attracted the attention of the passers-by.

It was actually the first time for me and I would presume for everyone else to come in contact with such a magnificent car. A notice on the side window was both in Arabic and English to give the curious crowd some information about the car and what it's doing in Jordan. I had a chance to meet both drivers Michael Edward, 57, a photographer and his son David, a sales manager, both British.

"The two drivers, who started their tour around the world on Jan. 1, 1988, left Sydney to Portsmouth — England — then on to France, Switzerland, Italy, Yugoslavia, Greece, Egypt and finally Aqaba.

The next destination will be Bombay, and they expect to finish the tour by the June 15, this year at the Sydney Opera House.

"It took us two years of planning and working on the car in preparation for the challenge. So far it went smoothly with only minor engine problems. Once we managed to do 5,500 kilometres without any stops for repairs," Edward commented.

The two adventurers expressed their gratitude to all Jordanians. "Everyone was so kind, they came to us smiling and offering us help."

"I would like to give special thanks to Mr. Bassam Qaqish,

head of Aqaba region authority, for his hospitality and the shield he presented to us."

The Morris car is one of six cars

to go on such a tour on six different routes. The one condition was to conclude the trip by the end of this year.



Aqaba Region Director Bassam Qaqish (centre) presents a shield to Michael Edward while David Edward looks on. (below) The two Edwards pose for a photograph with their 1929 Morris car.



Jordan, Egypt reaffirm rejection of 'self-rule' plan

region by U.S. special envoys Richard Murphy and Philip Habib and expectations for the Shultz visit later, Rifai reiterated Jordan's stand, which is in line with the unified Arab position, that a U.N.-sponsored international peace conference to be attended by all parties involved in the conflict and the U.N. Security Council's five permanent members was the only forum for peace talks.

Referring to the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, the prime minister said it undermined the fact that the state of affairs in the occupied territories had stressed the dire need for moves to attain a peaceful solution.

Rifai said Syria's Golan Heights, which joined the uprising Sunday, was also an occupied Arab land like the West Bank and Gaza and it was natural that its people resist the occupation as the case in other occupied areas. Syria and the PLO have already rejected the U.S. proposals.

Mubarak said Monday he hoped Shultz would come to the

Middle East with plans for a comprehensive, final settlement through an international conference.

"I don't want any initiative to fail but any initiative should carry with it... a just, comprehensive settlement in the Middle East," he said.

Mubarak earlier held talks on

the Arab-Israeli conflict with British opposition leader Neil Kinnock.

The president said the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza would build up if the Palestinians lost confidence in leaders trying to reach a settlement.

Mubarak, who met President Reagan in Washington last

month, said the Americans did not tell him of any specific peace plan.

"We made it clear that an international conference is essential for any solution and we expressed hopes that any proposals should not carry any wording from Camp David because Camp David is old and dead," he said.

PLO defers voyage after ship damaged

the one who purportedly spoke for JDL.

The JDL was founded in the early 1960s by New York-born Meir Kahane, now a member of the Israeli parliament and head of extremist, anti-Arab Kach party.

A senior PLO official interviewed in Nicosia said: "It was an underwater blast caused by a mine that was stuck, probably by frogmen, onto the vessel. It was attached to a time fuse."

Asked what the PLO planned to do after the attack, the official, who requested anonymity, said: "We are waiting for a decision by the command. We have to see if there is an alternative ship for the voyage."

In Algiers, a senior aide to the PLO chief said the organisation would get another boat for the voyage. Salah Khalaf, also said "Zionist terrorism" disabled the Sol Phryne.

The PLO had tried to launch the voyage from Greece, but it was repeatedly delayed, reportedly under Israeli pressure.

The 130 deportees plus hundreds of international supporters and journalists were taken in buses to Athens airport Monday and were told they would be flown to Cyprus to board the boat.

After oews of the blast reached Athens, most returned to their hotels.

Sol Phryne's captain, Cleanthis Vlahopoulos, said his vessel "would not be fit to sail for several months."

A PLO statement issued later in Nicosia hinted at possible retaliation against Israeli targets overseas.

"While we have adhered to the Cairo Declaration to halt military operations against enemy targets outside the borders of our country, that was conditional on them being halted from both sides," the statement said.

"It is not logical or possible for the halt to continue unilaterally. This is a double-edged weapon as the treacherous terrorist Israeli enemy is well aware."

U.N. panel slams Israel's policy

U.S. delegate Marshall Breger told the commission after Monday's vote that Washington was concerned about Israeli policy in the West Bank and Gaza, including deportations, indiscriminate beatings and the use of live firearms.

But it had voted against the resolutions because they contained "falsehoods, errors and unacceptable language," Breger said.

A British move to delete a passage in the Golan Heights resolution saying Israel was not a peace-loving state and had not carried out its obligations under the U.N. Charter was defeated by 23 votes to 12 with eight abstentions.

The United States failed in an attempt to remove another paragraph from the same resolution.

The paragraph strongly deplored Washington's "negative vote and pro-Israeli position" that prevented the U.N. Security Council taking action against Israel.

ملكا من الالح

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Time for the olive branch

ISRAEL should assess the fact that the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has spilled over to the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan Heights. Israeli policymakers have always falsely cheered alleged Druze devotion and dedication to the security and welfare of Israel. And now, with the Druze of the Golan Heights joining in the revolt of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, Israel's dreams of counting on the "allegiance" of the Druze, and of driving a wedge between Arab and Druze, must have been irreparably shattered.

This is the second major setback for Israel in the wake of the popular uprising in the occupied territories, the first being when the Palestinian Arabs within Israel joined forces with their brothers and sisters across the so-called green line and expressed their solidarity with them. The Israeli establishment never entertained the possibility that the events in the West Bank and Gaza would ignite the political consciousness of the Arabs in Israel, and awaken them to the bitter-sweet fact that they share a common destiny with the Palestinian people wherever they are. And now with the uprising of the Syrian Druze in the Golan Heights in full swing, Israeli policymakers must be having nightmares lest this latest rebellion against Israeli occupation spill over to the Druze of Israel, as well. The Israeli military establishment by now must have second thoughts about manning its forces with the so-called "loyal Druze" soldiers.

We think that Israel is in for more surprises, as long as it clings to the false and short-sighted illusion of crushing the spirit of Palestinianism by brute forces. It is time for Israel to offer an olive branch to the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories, and to start a peace process in earnest in our region. Otherwise, the entire political and social fabric of Israel is destined for slow but sure disintegration.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Jordan strengthens summit achievements

AS King Hussein continues his tour in Europe which took him to the Vatican, France, West Germany and Austria, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai made a visit to Damascus aimed at maintaining the spirit of the Amman Arab summit held last November and Arab solidarity. Rifai who went to Damascus and will visit Baghdad, Cairo and Riyadh in the course of this initiative will try to help the Arab Nation safeguard the outcome of the Amman summit which is being threatened by external forces. Rifai's visit to Damascus was also to brief the Syrian leaders on the outcome of the King's tour so far in European countries and his talks with their leaders. The outcome was good and was reflected in the all-out support for Arab just causes and a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international conference. The current uprising in the occupied Arab lands came to add significance to the situation in the region, and to underline the need for a speedy solution for the Palestinian problem. The King's tour complemented by Rifai's visits in Arab countries are both designed to help the Arabs maintain their solidarity and their consensus achieved at their Amman summit in the face of the present challenges and threats.

Al Dustour: Europe supports peace conference

IN his talk with Arab diplomats accredited to Austria King Hussein said that European leaders had expressed favourable response to Arab demands for an international conference to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and to solve the Palestine problem. In fact, this European response is a great gain for the Arabs, and came about as a fruit of the King's endeavours on the international scene; Europe's support at this stage assumes an added significance as it comes amidst continued resistance in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and amid reports of a new U.S. peace initiative. The ongoing uprising will make any talk about aborting the proposed international conference meaningless. Europe's support for the Arabs in their endeavour to achieve peace bound to make the Americans more realistic and refrain from swimming against the current. The Amman summit meeting created the opportune atmosphere for inter-Arab cooperation and consensus, and paved the ground for fruitful cooperation with Europe and the world at large for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and bring about the aspired peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: King wins Europe's support

THE King's current tour abroad has won Jordan added support and backing from world leaders and enhanced the inter-Arab action for convening an international conference to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. The King's meeting yesterday with the heads of Arab missions in Vienna is yet one more step in his long and serious efforts here and abroad to coordinate the efforts of the Arab countries towards achieving peace in the Middle East region. As the King continues his efforts abroad the uprising inside the occupied Arab territory continues to gain momentum and has now spread to the occupied Syrian Golan Heights where the people came out in force to confront the Israeli forces. The uprising has given the world a new outlook at the Palestinian problem and King Hussein has focused the world nations' attention on the Palestinian plight. It is now for the Arab countries to pursue these efforts on all fronts and try to ensure the convening of an international conference that can find a just solution for the Palestinian people's problem.

Promised land: Whose land?

By Cathal O'Connor

I HAVE just discovered that I'm a Jew. My maternal grandmother's family, I am now informed, arrived in this country in the Seventeenth Century as Italian Jewish immigrants. They prospered in the City, and one of them became broker to Britain's first prime minister, Sir Robert Walpole. And because under the Israeli Law of Return anyone whose maternal grandmother was Jewish is deemed to be a Jew, I could emigrate to Israel tomorrow.

The news was traumatic. My immediate reaction was one of intense pride. To be of the people who, during the last century, have spawned such great men as Einstein, Epstein, and Freud, not to mention Koestler, Marx, and Menahem, warmed my heart. After sober thought, however, a nagging doubt: what about Israel? For in my youth I lived for some years in that lovely little land, and what I see happening there now saddens and revolts me.

When I left university in the Thirties, I was persuaded by a friend of my father's, who was a nabob in the Foreign Office, and perhaps the most well known non-Jewish Zionist in Britain, to let him use his contacts with the Crown Agents to secure for me a position in the Mandatory British Government in Palestine. I arrived in the Holy Land in 1936, convinced that I should do my best to support the Zionist cause.

As we came ashore from our ship at Haifa, we heard of an incident that had occurred that very morning, in the open air Arab market in the middle of the city. A Jewish "activist" had hollered out a pumpkin, filled it with explosives, and rolled it into the centre of the market, where Arab — and Jewish — housewives were busy shopping. As we passed by the site in our car on the way to Jerusalem, we saw the police and troops busily shovelling up the bloody remnants of men, women and children into the back of a lorry. We were told that more than 40 poor souls had been blown to pieces, and many more injured.

Arabs betrayed

Although Jewish immigrants — both legal and illegal — had been able to settle in Palestine since the end of the first World War, the influx of refugees greatly increased when the Nazis came to power in Germany. And by the time I arrived, the Palestinians had become very worried about their future. After all, during the first World War the Allies had made solemn promises to the Arabs that when the war ended, they would soon gain self-government and independence. With this sudden mass immigration of Jews the Palestinians' hope of regaining their nationhood seemed gravely threatened.

The result of this fear was, unsurprisingly, the creation of a spirit of revolt. Some young Arabs began to attack their new Jewish neighbours in the cities, and others took to the hills as armed bands, and started to swoop down briefly to attack police barracks or Jewish settlements.

The Palestine government, which had long seen the inevitability of such a scenario, was nevertheless impotent to do much about it. Not only was there a shortage of police and troops, but its actions were strictly controlled by an administration in London strongly influenced by the Zionist lobby. (After all, at any one time, there are always some fifty or so Jewish MPs in Parliament; there are no Arabs). The Jews were fully prepared for internecine warfare, and organisations such as the Irgun Zvi Leumi and the Stern Gang were soon at work murdering British officials, police and soldiers, large numbers of

Arabs, and even individual Jews who refused to support the extreme Zionist cause.

So when I was sent off to travel around the country to familiarise myself with its people, I expected anything but a welcome from either community. To my amazement, the headmen in the Arab villages sat me down to a juicy feast of spit-roasted lamb, washed down with Haig whisky, while the leaders of the Jewish settlements made me feel equally at home. It appeared that in spite of the troubles, in the depths of the countryside Arab and Jewish communities were continuing to cohabit harmoniously. They not only traded with each other, they

guerrillas agreed on a truce while the war lasted — neither side wished for a German victory — as soon as news of the holocaust broke upon a horrified world, mass illegal immigration of Jews from Germany and her satellites presented innumerable problems for our Palestine administration.

At one point Hitler proposed to release one million Jews from the camps in Germany and other countries the Nazis had invaded, if the still neutral U.S. would take them. America agreed at once. But the Zionists' Jewish Agency in Jerusalem — which controlled the policy of the Jewish community — refused to cooperate, and insisted that all European Jews must come to Palestine.

"A professor of ancient history at Tel Aviv University recently said that the Ashkenazi Jews, who have ruled present-day Israel since its birth, have no Semitic or Hebrew connections, but are the descendants of a Caucasian tribe called the Khazars, who converted to Judaism in the eighth century AD. Arthur Koestler said that 90 per cent of world Jewry were not Semites. Perhaps this is the main reason why Israeli governments have had so little empathy with the Palestinians."

even joined one another's religious festivals.

Past coexistence

Finally I came to Tiberias, the once Roman city on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. When most of the Jewish population had been exiled from Palestine by the Romans in A.D. 70, some religious communities had evaded eviction. Their descendants in Tiberias now comprised nearly half the inhabitants and the communities had become so integrated that the mayor was one year an Arab, the next a Jew.

The situation was not to last long. Although at the outbreak of the last war both Arab and Jewish

The Jewish Agency's extremism not only condemned hundreds of thousands of Jews to death, it brought mayhem to Palestine. Ships crammed with illegal immigrants arrived off the coast, only for most of them to be turned away.

Our government was in a cleft stick. The Mandate decreed that we give priority to the indigenous population; our hearts went out to the refugees. The end result, accelerated by Britain's fear that she might be seen to share the guilt for the holocaust, was the scuttling of our responsibilities towards the Palestinians, tearing up of the Mandate, and the abrupt flight from the country of

government, police, and soldiers.

As we sailed home, none of us doubted what would follow. Huge imports of arms from America, combined with a ruthless policy carried out by leading terrorists — such as Begin and Shamir and their gangs — led to the extermination of whole populations of terrified villages and the flight of more than 1,750,000 Palestinians from their homeland. As a result, the Jews were able to seize territory not allotted to them under the U.N. partition agreement, and Israel finally occupied more than two thirds of Palestine.

History will record the inhumanity, not to mention the idiocy, of Israel's neo-Nazi policy since the birth of the new state. How in spite of unqualified support from America and much of the rest of the world she has managed to alienate her friends by her arrogance, encourage Palestinian resistance by ruthless oppression in the occupied territories and has now become so much despised by the organisation that was midwife to her birth that its members have voted unanimously to condemn her.

A ghetto state

Unless the state is to degenerate into a bankrupt ghetto, with a growing net immigration loss (thousands of Israelis leave for America every year, and 80 per cent of Russian Jews leaving the Soviet Union do not come to Israel) mounting warfare in the occupied territories, and the possibility of invasion by her surrounding Arab neighbours, Israel must surely cease behaving like an evil theocratic oligarchy and become the civilised democracy she now absurdly claims to be.

Although today, with increasing violence in the occupied territories, the two communities seem as far apart as ever, there is some hope. Many leading Israeli

academics are now convinced of the need to recognise the rights of the Palestinians. Moshe Menahem, a prominent Israeli historian, and father of our Sir Yehudi, says that "the Palestinians are the descendants of the Canaanites, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Crusaders, and Turks, and are the aboriginal inhabitants of the country."

The people who were later to be called Palestinians built one of the first of the world's great civilisations. Compared with their record, the invasion by the tribes of Israel, whose hegemony over the land lasted a brief 300 years, provides little evidence to support Zionist claims to ownership of the land today.

Further, a professor of ancient history at Tel-Aviv University recently said that the Ashkenazi Jews, who have ruled present-day Israel since its birth, have no Semitic or Hebrew connections, but are the descendants of a Caucasian tribe called the Khazars, who converted to Judaism in the eighth century A.D. Arthur Koestler said that 90 per cent of world Jewry were not Semites. Perhaps this is the main reason why Israeli governments have had so little empathy with the Palestinians.

The only solution to the Middle East problem, which has hung around the world's neck like an albatross for fifty years, is for the election of a government in Israel agreeable to an international conference which would possibly construct some sort of condominium in what the extreme Zionists now call Greater Israel — where the occupied territories would be returned to their inhabitants, where every man and woman, Arab or Jew, would have a vote, where Jerusalem would be shared, not divided, and where the undeniable talents of both peoples could create a peaceful and prosperous nation — The Guardian.

Reagan legacy clouded on ethics in government

By Christopher Hanson
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Ronald Reagan says he hopes his administration will be remembered for its high moral standards. Many critics would demur.

With the U.S. attorney general under investigation, a former senior White House aide convicted for illegal lobbying and indictments in the Iran-contra scandal expected soon, the administration's ethics are under a cloud of suspicion as Reagan enters his last months in power.

More than 100 senior officials have been accused of unethical or illegal conduct since Reagan took office in 1981.

Several, including former Labour Secretary Raymond Donovan, who was tried on fraud charges, and ex-National Security Advisor Richard Allen, who was accused of taking illegal gifts, have been cleared of any wrongdoing. But the record still shocks many independent observers.

"We are facing a crisis in ethical standards unmatched since the days of Watergate," Susan Manes of Common Cause, a non-partisan lobby for honesty in government, told Reuters.

The New York Times declared

in a recent editorial: "President Reagan presides over one of the most corrupt administrations ever. Whether measured by the rank or sheer numbers of officials who have come under ethical suspicion and criminal investigation, the amount of sleaze is awesome."

Not everyone agrees. Burton Yale Fines of the conservative Heritage Foundation said: "The Reagan administration has been very honest. It's very difficult to get 2,000 political appointees and to be able to vouch for the behaviour of all of them."

He said many allegations of misconduct have not stood up under investigation. Accusations alone are not proof of guilt.

What bothers critics is that Reagan has seemed nonchalant or oblivious to the string of charges. Commenting recently on his historical legacy, he told reporters: "I hope the imprint will be one of high morality."

Democrat Mark Green, who heads the Liberal Democracy Project think-tank in New York, said Reagan had to be joking.

Independent counsel James McKay is investigating allegations that Attorney General

Edwin Meese, the nation's top law enforcement official, knew of a plan by close friend E. Robert Wallach, now under indictment for fraud, to pay off some Israelis as part of an Iraqi oil pipeline scheme.

The line was not built and Meese denies any wrongdoing, predicting he will be cleared.

McKay has suspended an earlier investigation of Meese for his alleged role in an influence peddling scandal concerning the Wedtech corporation. Investigators say the probe could be revived if Wallach or his associates provide evidence against Meese.

Lobbying, Lobbying

Last week Lyn Nofziger, a long-time Reagan aide, was found guilty of illegally lobbying Meese on behalf of Wedtech. He was also convicted of lobbying White House staffers on behalf of aircraft manufacturer Fairchild Industries and a union that sought more civilian jobs on navy ships.

Nofziger, who is seeking to overturn his criminal conviction that carries a maximum six-year

prison sentence, is the first person ever convicted of influence-peddling under the 1978 ethics in government law. The statute was adopted as part of the reforms stemming from the Watergate scandal.

His case represented another embarrassment for the White House, already hit by the perjury conviction last December of former deputy chief of staff Michael Deaver, a close friend of Reagan and his wife Nancy.

Independent counsel Lawrence Walsh is probing possible crimes in a White House plan, exposed in 1986, to divert profits from Iran arms sales to Nicaraguan contra rebels in violation of a congressional ban on rebel aid.

Those under investigation include former National Security Adviser Admiral John Poindexter, his predecessor, Robert McFarlane, their ex-lieutenant Colonel Oliver North and several of their private associates.

Earlier Reagan administration misconduct cases included: — Ex-Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Thayer, who resigned in 1984 and later pleaded guilty to

giving false testimony in an insider trading scheme and obstructing justice.

— C. McClain Haddow, former top health and human services official, who pleaded guilty last autumn to illegally receiving \$55,000 from a foundation he set up while in government.

— Former Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) official Rita Lavelle, who was sentenced to six months in jail and fined \$10,000 for lying about EPA activities.

Many convicted

So many Reagan lieutenants have been convicted or have resigned under a cloud that some critics are comparing the administration with others now remembered largely for scandal — those of Ulysses Grant, Warren Harding and Richard Nixon.

Duke University presidential scholar James Barber told Reuters the Reagan administration looked especially bad because it combined financial improprieties of the sort that plagued Grant and Harding with far more serious Iran-contra abuses that

evoked Watergate. (The Watergate scandal, which involved illegal break-ins, obstruction of justice, illicit shredding of documents and lying to Congress, ultimately drove Nixon to resign in 1974.)

Pines of Heritage denied that the Reagan team had been more corrupt than Democratic administrations, including those of Harry Truman and Lyndon Johnson.

He gave two reasons for the relatively long list of allegations and improprieties under Reagan: Reagan had served nearly eight years, longer than any president since Eisenhower left office, and the ethics in government act held the Reagan team to an all-time high standard of behaviour.

But Manes of Common Cause blamed Reagan for not setting an example by expressing outrage at wrongdoing by his aides.

She said his administration had an "anything goes" attitude. The cost of running for office had attracted wealthy lobbyists and fund-raisers to Washington, where there now was too much money and too few standards, she said.

Racism rising in France

By Galina Vromen
Reuter

AMSTERDAM — Racism and violence against immigrants has increased sharply in France and is likely to worsen in the future, the Anne Frank Foundation said in a report Feb. 14.

It blamed right-wing presidential candidate Jean-Marie Le Pen and his National Front Party for fuelling hatred and accused other parties of doing little to counter his message.

"Open aggression against foreigners is the order of the day," the report said.

"The political climate for immigrants, refugees, for anyone seen as a 'foreigner' in France has worsened considerably in recent years," said the 84-page report "Racism in France" by the foundation which monitors anti-Semitism and racism worldwide.

"The climate... is likely to worsen still further," it concluded.

Le Pen is campaigning for presidential elections in April on an anti-immigrant platform that calls for "France for the French" and blames a foreign influx for French unemployment.

In an election meeting on Feb. 12 night Le Pen called on schools to limit the number of immigrant children in each class so that French pupils were not penalised. The report said neither other right-wing parties nor the left had done enough to curb Le Pen's influence and predicted he will win about nine to 10 per cent of the presidential vote.

The report said other right-wing presidential candidates who needed the votes of Le Pen's supporters in a second ballot were reluctant to speak out. "When the situation is such that the right coalition needs the support of Le Pen to stay in power, or win the presidential election, the fear is there that they will accept the support of the National Front," the report said.

The foundation also criticised the centre-right government of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac for tightening restrictions on immigrants.

"The Socialist leadership above all has wanted to prevent Le Pen from being viewed as a victim. Therefore the Socialist Party has been extremely reticent about taking part in demonstrations against Le Pen," the report said.

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Enjoying bedouin hospitality

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By Rami G. Khouri

WHEN THE troops of Sherif Hussein of Mecca, the great-grandfather of King Hussein, launched the Great Arab Revolt in 1916, they received some operational assistance from a flamboyant Englishman who would be known thereafter as Lawrence of Arabia.

After retiring from the British army, Lawrence gave an account of the experience in his famous book, *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*. In the decades since then, the accuracy of some of his facts has been questioned by more than one historian.

Now, at least one aspect of Lawrence's travels in Jordan, where most of his exploits took place, has been effectively tested: how long it actually takes to cross a desert stretch on camelback.

Last year, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of Lawrence, four young British soldiers of the Royal Green Jackets Regiment embarked on retracing his footsteps through the deserts and mountains of Jordan.

They gave themselves a month to ride the 1,000 miles that Lawrence covered during his 1917-18 camel trek with the Arab Hashemite forces.

In the end, the four Britishers did not track the full distance, but in 30 days they completed a total of 700 miles. In the process, they not only found out about camel-mileage per day, but also learned much about the natural beauty and simple human graces of life in the vast expanses of the Arabian deserts.

Like others who visit the area, they also learned that the traditional life-style of the nomadic Bedouins in their great black tents is slowly disappearing — that, increasingly, Jordan's desert dwellers are taking up residence in settled villages, within easy access to water, schooling, medical care and job opportunities.

Expedition leader Captain Charles Blackmore, 27, at first thought of making the journey quickly in Land Rover jeeps, but opted instead for a month-long circuit on camelback, to more faithfully replicate Lawrence's actual movements.

In 1984, he and nine of his mates had walked 400 miles in the mountains of northern Spain, reenacting their regiment's famous "retreat to Corunna" during the war against Napoleon in December 1808.

Looking for another adventure that would combine history with a physically and mentally demanding test of desert endurance, Blackmore felt that duplicating Lawrence's camel trek on the 50th anniversary of his death would meet both criteria. After a year of planning and preparation — with assistance for the expedition provided by British Airways,

Rothmans, and the Jordanian Armed Forces and Desert Police — he and his three regimental mates were ready to go.

Starting from Wadi Rum

On Feb. 14, with six camels, two Bedouin guides, survival rations — and some astronomical equipment for safe measure — they set off from the Wadi Rum desert in south Jordan.

A month later, on March 14, they rode back into Wadi Rum — a little thinner, a lot fitter, and immeasurably wiser in the ways of men, camels and life in the desert, where the glint in a man's eye and the humour in his heart can be as important as the sure-footedness and endurance of his camel.

Their itinerary took them from Wadi Rum north to Jafr, then on past the Bayir wells to Azraq (where they slept in the same ancient castle room that had served as Lawrence's field headquarters in north Jordan). From Azraq, they continued northwest to Mafrag, where they turned south along a route that followed the Hejaz Railway, past Qatranah down to Hasa. Here, they veered west to Tafleeh, then south to Shobak, Petra, Sadaga, Ras Al-Naqab and, finally, back to Wadi Rum.

They had hoped to cover 30-35 miles a day, but in fact averaged 20, walking or riding their camels between sunrise and sunset. Their pace was slowed by the unusually cold winter weather and by the occasional sandstorms that reduced visibility to less than ten metres.

The reluctance of the camels to be pushed, unaccustomed as they are these days to rigorous tests of endurance, was another hindrance. There was also the penchant of the guides to stick to the gentle pace of life in the desert — a tendency that became increasingly welcome, however, as the days passed.

None of the four Englishmen had ever ridden a camel before, which meant sore backs and stomach muscles the first few days. Nevertheless, by the third day, the soldiers were handling the camels with a facility that elicited much respect, though a few chuckles, from their Bedouin guides.

The daily routine, which began with a dawn wake-up and tea, consisted of four morning hours of trekking, with a break for tea and bread, and a rest for the camels around 10:00 a.m., followed by another four or five hours of travelling, and finally dinner and camp-out at sunset.

In a few towns along the way, they bought fresh onions, olives,

bread and tinned meat to supplement the sparse rations they carried. On the trail, they learned to identify and dig out small, edible desert plants, and to chew the salty leaves of an indigenous bush that has fortified desert travellers since the dawn of history.

The camels, also foraging for food, nibbled the tough green leaves of the scattered bushes and small trees that dot the desert landscape. As for water, there were enough springs, wells, streams and the occasional Jordanian desert police post along the way. And never once did any of the men complain of stomach troubles.

Feasting at Petra

The culinary highlight of the entire trip occurred during their one-night stop at a cave in Petra, the ancient rock-cut capital of the Nabataeans. There, another Englishman who has left his mark on southern Jordan, the former General Manager of Petra Forum Hotel, Bill Eve, suddenly appeared with bottles of champagne and a sumptuous mansef meal of chicken and rice.

They slept in lightweight, wind-proof one-man tents called Bivi Bags, which had been donated to the expedition by their manufacturer, Survival Aids.

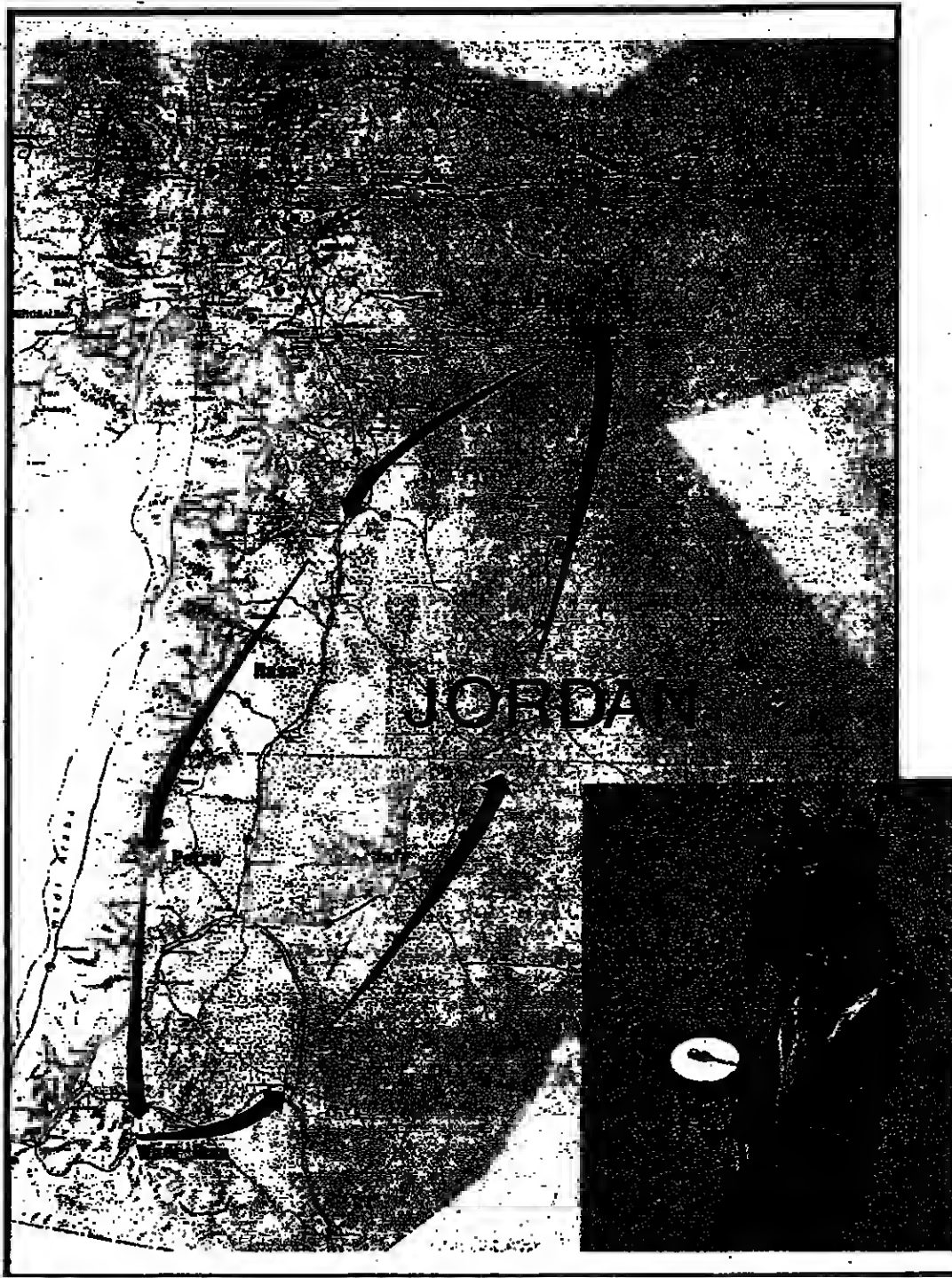
The two Bedouin guides, Mohammad Musa and Hamad Awad, slept on more customary beds — grain bags, with sheepskins and blankets to ward off the winter night and cold of the desert.

Captain James Bowden, 24, who was unable to overcome his dislike for camels walked as much as he rode. He remembers that for the first three days, "we were almost constantly hungry, hot and tired, and sometimes felt a bit light-headed. But by the fourth day, we had adjusted, and from then on never did we miss Western food or other amenities of modern life."

In many places, they followed the ancient routes that camel caravans had once used to transport spices, frankincense, myrrh and other valued commodities from India and southern Arabia to the markets of Syria, Egypt and Rome.

"The trails always avoided hills and stayed near water sources on the flat terrain," Blackmore noted. "Whenever we thought we were hopelessly lost, our guides had the amazing ability always to know where we were on the map and how we would get to the next destination point."

Occasionally, however, the mysterious workings of the desert mind baffled the Englishmen, who could not understand why they travelled over a certain hill



The 30-day route and (inset) Captain Charles Blackmore consulting the compass.

instead of around it, or why Mohammad Musa chose one campsite over another.

They finished the journey with deep respect and affection for their two guides and the many Bedouin families they had encountered en route.

The experience also gave them a heightened appreciation for the qualities of endurance, patience, laughter and mercy that the desert breeds in its dwellers.

"Mohammad Musa is a noble warrior of extremely sharp mind," Blackmore remarked. "After a few days, he had us all figured out and sent us into great fits of laughter as he mimicked how we walked or tried to mount our camels."

Rifleman Mark West, 22, called the Jordanian Bedouins he encountered, "the most friendly and kind people I have ever met. It's sad that their life-style is slowly disappearing." Blackmore, recalling the Bedouin readiness to forgive and forget after an argument, added: "We were privileged to spend a month living and travelling with the Bedou. They are truly nature's gentlemen."

Impressed by Bedouin life

Bandsman Christopher Selly, 22, a trumpet player who fashioned a flute from bamboo and played it during the journey, will long remember the "simplicity of life" in the desert.

"The Bedou life-style is perhaps most impressive for the absence of the many nagging aspects of our urban societies," he said. "There is a strong sense of utter unworldliness in the desert, with little importance attached to material values. Even the few poor families we met would invite us to share their food and homes."

Bowden also commented on the gregarious spirit of the Bedou, saying that the older men and women especially had "a tremendous capacity for talk and conversation, which we unfortunately lack in the West. It breeds an enquiring mind, an energy of intellect applied to discussion, debate and negotiation, that is impressive. Even the smallest incident or experience would remain in the mind for days and weeks, to be recalled and talked about many times over."

Parting at the end of the journey was perhaps the hardest part for the four Englishmen. When they neared their final destination in Wadi Rum, they stretched out their last day as long as possible, trying to postpone the inevitable moment of departure. "We were genuinely sad to leave the desert," Blackmore recalls, "and our most moving experience was when Mohammad and Hamad embraced us half a dozen times in farewell. I had to turn my face away. My eyes were wet, and I felt as if I had a brick in my throat. It had been such a rare

privilege — to spend a month living and travelling in the Jordanian desert, experiencing the traditional graces of a vanishing life-style that will not be around for much longer."

The transition into another way of life for the Bedou was demonstrated most forcefully in the contrast between parents and children — as in the case of Mohammad Musa himself, whose oldest son wants to become a commercial pilot.

The older Bedouin generation, although less educated than the young, never ceased to demonstrate their own accumulated wealth of knowledge. Frequently, Mohammad Musa would stop the camel caravan to point out scattered pottery shards on the ground, correctly identifying them as Roman in date. "I had studied archaeology myself," said Blackmore, "but could never match Mohammad's keen eye."

The trip also had its lighter moments. At Petra, a group of French tourists thought the four blonde, blue-eyed men in Arab dress and riding camels were members of the ethnic Druze community of north Jordan. The tourists dutifully snapped away with their cameras, pleased to have captured on film what they thought was a colourful slice of the Jordanian citizenry.

South of Tafila village, they were detained for two hours by an off-duty Jordanian officer, who became suspicious of the four foreigners wearing Arab garb and taking pictures (as it turned out) in the vicinity of a restricted area. When the misunderstanding was straightened out by the post commander, the four Englishmen were offered bountiful cups of tea and "a thousand apologies" from officer and commander alike.

The camels, who each carried a load of over 350 pounds, were not above playing games with their novice riders. Blackmore's camel

once galloped a fair distance across the desert with a startled captain hanging on for dear life, having only half mounted the saddle. On another occasion, after one of several camel races across wide flat desert stretches and perhaps reacting unkindly to defeat, Blackmore's headstrong dromedary raced out of control in wide circles, to the consternation of its rider and the great amusement of all the others.

Mark West's camel also generated a certain forced respect by occasionally rising to a sudden stand as West was trying to mount the saddle, inevitably leaving the Englishman sprawled flat on the ground.

Though the expedition was not undertaken specifically to verify or refute Lawrence's account of his travels, the experience suggests that some aspects of his exploits may have been slightly overblown. Blackmore says that after a few days on the trail they inevitably started to compare their own trek with descriptions of the same journey in *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*.

Lawrence recounts making the trip on camelback between Jafr and Bayir (43 miles as the crow flies) in under nine hours, while it took the Englishmen two and a half days to cover the same distance along the same route. According to the experienced opinion of their Bedouin guides, a good rider could do it at best in one and a half days, but certainly no less.

"In the end," Blackmore notes, "Lawrence was his own witness. Clearly, there is some exaggeration in at least that account of his adventures."

What will the Royal Green Jackets do now for an encore? "Next year, we'd like to try a 4,000-mile trek across the Sahara Desert, from Mauritania to Egypt," Blackmore says.

"We've been bitten by the desert." — The Jordan magazine.

Homelessness on the rise in the U.S., other countries

By Arthur Spiegelman
Reuter

NEW YORK — A walk through New York's Port Authority bus terminal, the entry point for tens of thousands of commuters, tells part of the story.

A man with a briefcase under his arm steps over sleeping human beings. He avoids side stairways because there are too many bodies lying on cardboard covered by filthy blankets.

An elderly woman, her clothes a patchwork of someone else's discards, thrusts her hand in his face and bellows: "I'm hungry." He strides past derelicts, broken men with bottles in brown bags before reaching his taxi line.

Like many cities around the world, New York is in the midst of a crisis, its streets resembling a war zone of homelessness and helplessness.

Almost 100,000 New Yorkers from the mentally deranged to the elderly to young mothers are homeless and helpless. Soaring rents, declining housing stock, arson, tragedy, drugs and government indifference have contributed to the problem.

Homeless children stuck in sinking hotels play in streets near the bus station, mingling with drug addicts and pimps.

The situation is worsening in the United States, where an estimated three million people are homeless or inadequately housed. A survey of Reuter correspondents shows the problem is serious in other rich countries as well as in Third World countries where internal migration makes homelessness endemic.

United Nations figures say that globally one in four persons is either homeless or living at the edge.

Some countries, like Sweden and Japan, seem to have the problem under control, the Reuter survey found.

Among the hard-hit industrial countries is Britain, where the Char housing campaign for single people group says nearly three million are homeless or on the edge of homelessness.

London has 65,000 homeless, with 2,500 living outdoors. Others live in night shelters, hostels, very bad conditions or in temporary places.

"The situation of homelessness in Britain has been getting worse and worse in the past few years," a Char spokesman said.

"The image of the homeless as middle-aged men is outdated. Nowadays young people and women are affected," he added.

The homeless these days in Britain, as elsewhere, include people who lost their jobs, could not pay their mortgages, young people rejected by their parents and a small number of people discharged from psychiatric hospitals, Char said.

West Germany, no serious problem

By contrast, West Germany, Europe's richest nation, regards homelessness as a problem but not a serious one.

Heinrich Huebener, a government expert on social affairs, said there were 100,000 registered homeless people, and 600,000 to 800,000 inadequately housed in a population of 61 million.

In the Soviet Union, homelessness, like joblessness, officially does not exist. People do not sleep in the streets, partly because of the cold and partly because the police would quickly arrest them.

Nevertheless, the Soviet Union has "hidden homelessness." While waiting years for small state flats, people often live with their parents or share communal facilities.

Young people who leave home face a drifting existence of sleep-

ing on friends' floors. Some live in illegally sublet flats owned by private landlords who charge high rents.

Another problem arises when people do not have a resident permit for the city of their choice. Moscow and other big cities are full of people from the provinces living illegally, without a home or the chance to work officially.

Sweden's homeless problem is minimal, thanks to advanced social welfare programmes and the dangers posed by freezing Nordic winters that make street survival almost impossible.

The Stockholm social services department says it is very rare for authorities to fill 50 emergency bed spaces.

Circling in warmth

If worse comes to worst, Stockholm's homeless can get a bus pass ensuring relative warmth while circling in the night.

The Polish government denies existence of any homeless and there are no official statistics. But Catholic church sources say there may be up to 200,000.

In big cities the church runs hostels, which the state subsidised without admitting the homeless exist. Experts say Poland's homeless include ex-convicts, old people, divorcees and alcoholics. The problem is made more acute by a housing crisis with people waiting up to 15 years for a flat.

In May 1986, the Polish authorities said Poland would donate 5,000 sleeping bags and blankets to New York's homeless. The gift was not sent because the U.S. imposed high tariffs. The offer angered many Poles who saw it as a propaganda gesture.

Rome houses Italy's

In Italy the homeless problem centres in Rome, where an estimated 2,000 people literally live on the street. Many more Italians and foreigners — mostly Northern Africans — do not have permanent homes, but precise figures are unavailable.

Many of Rome's street people are similar to New York's "bag people" and are known as *barboni* (long beards).

They wander the streets by day and sleep on train station benches or at a 100-bed shelter run by a church relief group.

A study late last year refuted some stereotypes about street people. For many, joblessness, eviction from low-rent flats, old age or illness led to homelessness.

In Tokyo, the ranks of street people were reduced sharply over the last decade, but Japan's homeless seem different from those in other industrial nations, sociologists say.

Most of those on Tokyo streets are rural people who moved to the capital seeking work during the economic boom of the 1960s and 1970s, said Tetsusui Matsuzawa, a historian at Tokyo Women's University.

They work when they can get odd jobs, and sleep on the streets when they have no money. They tend to take better care of themselves than their Western counterparts.

Huddling under bridges or in parks and underground stations, the tired figures of about 150 men shuffle towards salvation army trucks for a meal of curried meat and rice.

Warmed up and with full stomachs, they complain, even joke, about the tough life on the streets.

"Would you marry me and take care of me?" one asks a woman reporter. "The life is very tough with no job and such a cold wind."

"My family would never forgive me for living this way," said another man, as he turned away.



Breaking a camp at dawn in Petra

North Cyprus looks to tourism to boost economy

By John Owen-Davies
Reuter

300,000 visitors are expected.

Long-term leases

NICOSIA — Offering sun-drenched beaches and relics of ancient settlements, the breakaway Turkish Republic of North Cyprus (TRNC) anticipates record numbers of tourists this year to boost its hard-pressed economy.

Officials say the 1988 target is 175,000 tourists, compared with a record 160,000 last year, mainly from Turkey but with sizeable numbers from European Community (EC) countries.

"It is envisaged that tourism will be the most important sector in our economy. Our new economic programme envisages all necessary measures to be taken for the tourism sector," said Ahmet Baysal of the state planning organisation.

Officials say the administration plans to increase the number of tourist beds from about 4,400 at present to 10,000 by 1992, when

Potential developers are offered long-term leases of public land, duty-free import of building equipment and machinery, tax incentives and profit repatriation.

A big tourist attraction is the use of the rapidly-declining Turkish lira — a good beachfront hotel costs around 25,000 lira (\$24) a night — although this is held largely responsible for inflation, running last year at a provisional 43 per cent.

Turkish Cypriots unilaterally declared the TRNC in 1983, nine years after Turkish troops invaded and secured the northern third of Cyprus after a coup inspired by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Its economy has been kept afloat with cash injections by Turkey, the only country to officially recognise it.

One drawback to tourism, which Baysal said drew in a net income of \$48.5 million in 1986, is air transport.

Neither of the TRNC airports, Ercan and Gecitkale, are recognised as international and the only air link with the outside world is through Turkey on planes chartered from Turkish Airlines.

Economic woes date back to 1963 at the start of a decade of bitter inter-communal strife.

"We lost everything... We had no trade, no industry, no commerce," TRNC leader Rauf Denktaş told Reuters.

"We were buyers from Greek merchants and sellers to Turkish Cypriots. In order to buy from Greek merchants we had to put hard currency which we borrowed from Turkey into the central bank of Cyprus which the Greeks had taken over," he said.

Greek Cypriots say they developed much of the original

tourist infrastructure before the partition of the island.

Light industry

Apart from tourism, the other bright spot on the economic horizon is light industry.

Baysal said there were 460 industrial units producing a range of goods and items from tobacco, paper and textiles to chemicals in 1986, compared with 270 in 1975. He said 45 per cent of the TRNC's exports go to Turkey and another 45 per cent to European countries, mainly Britain. The rest ends up in the Middle East.

"All economists recommend me to adopt the issuing of our own currency," Prime Minister Dervis Eroglu told Reuters.

"In order to take this step we need firm securities and hard currency stock reserves. We are trying to create these conditions... But at the present moment I can say we are not quite ready for it."

Soviets take early lead in medal tally; 'Flying Finn' leaps to grab gold in 70 metres; E. German Mey tops speed skating

Weather plays cat-and-mouse with Calgary Winter Games

CALGARY (Agencies) — Winter Olympics' organisers were gazing anxiously into the Rockies at the snow-covered peak of Mount Allan Monday where the men's downhill was due to be staged at the second attempt.

Sunday's first full day of Olympic competition — and American television schedules — had been built round the blue ribbon event of the games.

But howling winds of over 200 kilometres per hour whipped up snow and made racing impossible.

The race was scheduled to begin at 1330 GMT Monday when the forecast was for 40 kph winds gusting to 60 kph — conditions

similar to those predicted for Sunday.

One gold medal more certain to be awarded was the men's singles luge in which East German Jens Mueller was poised for victory after smashing the track record with the two quickest times in Sunday's opening runs.

In the only other medal event of the day, Sweden were expected to take the first men's Nordic skiing gold in the 30-

kilometre cross-country race in which they were fielding four outstanding competitors.

American world champion speed skater Dan Jansen was attempting to come to terms with his heartbreak Monday following the death of his sister of leukemia 24 hours earlier. His personal misery was compounded when the gold medal he hoped to win in her memory was lost when he fell in the 500 metres.

Jansen, who has remained in Calgary to compete in Thursday's 1,000 metres, was being consoled by fiancée Natalie Grenier, a member of the Canadian women's speed skating squad, and his American team-mates.

The speed skating is being run indoors for the first time in Olympic competition. In the windless setting, other world records are expected to fall.

American Jansen, the world sprint skating champion, was the day's most tragic figure. Hours before the race, his older sister died in West Allis, Wisconsin, of complications caused by leukemia. Then, Jansen was eliminated from the 500-metre race when he fell on the first turn.

But he has another medal chance in Thursday's 1,000-metre race. At a meeting Sunday morning, the U.S. team dedicated its Olympic effort to Jansen.

The first gold medal of the Calgary Games was won by Vida Ventsene, a 23-year-old student from Soviet Lithuania. She beat teammate Raisa Smetanina by 8.7 seconds in the women's 10-kilometre cross-country event. Finland's Maju Matikainen was

third and defending champion Marja-Liisa Kirvesniemi, winner of all cross-country individual golds in the 1984 Olympics, ninth.

1988 WINTER OLYMPICS

Finland had one gold and one bronze and East Germany had its first gold, thanks to a world record performance by Jens-Uwe Mey in 500-metre speed skating Sunday.

Mey was timed to 36.45 seconds on the Olympic Oval, breaking the mark of 36.55 set by American Nick Thometz in March 1987. On Sunday, Thometz managed only an eighth place in 37.16.

Dutch skater Jan Ykema won the silver in 36.76 and Japan's Akira Kuroiwa, the 1987 overall world sprint champion, who skated in the same pair with Mey, took the bronze medal in 36.77.

third and defending champion Marja-Liisa Kirvesniemi, winner of all cross-country individual golds in the 1984 Olympics, ninth.

'Flying Finn'

Matti Nykanen, the 'Flying Finn', soared the fastest on both jumps from the 70-metre hill and became the first man to win Olympic gold medals in the games' two jumping events. He won the 90-metre gold in 1984 and is a favourite in that event here too. Czechoslovak jumper Pavel Ploc and Jiri Malec took the silver and bronze medals Sunday.

Ice hockey

In Group A hockey action, top-seeded Sweden overwhelmed France 13-2. Host Canada, another medal contender, was held to a 1-0 edge over Poland, and Switzerland upset Finland, 2-1. The two Swiss goals came within 92 seconds of each other in the first period.

Monday's Group B action pitted Norway against West Germany, defending champion Soviet Union against Austria and the United States against Czechoslovakia, which was upset 2-1 by West Germany Saturday.

Figure skating

Two-time world champions Ekaterina Gordeeva and Sergei Grinkov easily won the pairs short programme in Olympic figure skating competition Sunday night, with all nine judges rating them tops.

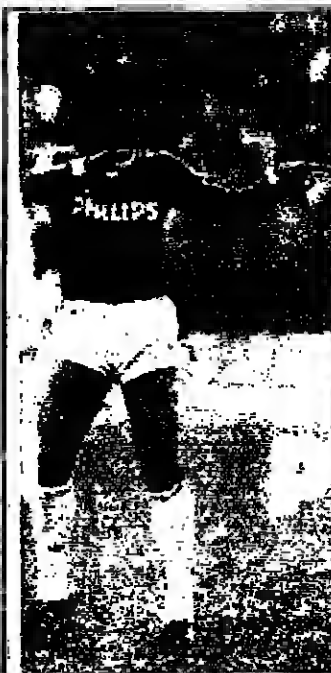
Second were the defending Olympic champions, Elena Valova and Oleg Vasiliev, also of the Soviet Union. It was their first appearance in competition this year. They skipped the European championships because of Valov's foot injury.

Jill Watson and Peter Oppiger of the United States finished third in the short programme, worth 28.5 per cent of the total score.



JOINT TEAM DRAWS WITH ROMANIANS: A joint team combining players of the Jordanian clubs Al Faisali and Al Ahli drew 1-1 with Romania's Asociatia Sportiva Armata (ASA) in a friendly soccer match played at Amman Stadium Monday. Sabhi Awad scored the Jordanian goal. Picture shows Awad tackling the ball before the Romanian goal (photo by Abdullah Ayyoub)

Sent-off Ruud Gullit says referee misunderstood him



Ruud Gullit

Reuters

EUROPEAN "Footballer of the Year" Ruud Gullit, sent off in the eighth minute of an Italian league match Sunday, said it was all a misunderstanding.

But, like Real Madrid striker Hugo Sanchez who was sent off in Spain, Gullit faces at least a one-match ban as the European domestic soccer programme approaches an important phase.

Gullit, playing for second-placed A.C. Milan at lowly Ascoli, was dismissed after applauding, apparently ironically, a decision by the referee to show him the yellow card.

But Gullit explained later: "I was saying to myself 'OK, OK,' let's get back to the match and as I did so I clapped my hands. It's my way of doing things, bringing myself round."

Team-mates came to the Dutchman's defence. "It's a gesture he always makes even in training — as if to say 'OK, let's get back to the game,'" Franco Baresi said.

Matters were squared in the second half when Ascoli's Domenico Agostini was sent off as Milan scrambled a 1-1 draw.

Yet with leaders Napoli thrashing struggling Avellino 4-0, Diego Maradona scoring his 12th league goal of the season, Milan lost valuable ground in the cham-

pionship chase. They now trail the title-bidders by five points.

The league's disciplinary committee meets this week and Gullit faces a one or two-match suspension, depending on how sympathetic the committee is.

Suspensions normally take effect immediately. There are no First Division matches next Sunday due to Italy's friendly against the Soviet Union, so he is likely to be out in two weeks time against fourth-placed Sampdoria.

Spanish League

Sanchez, sent off in the Spanish League match at Osasuna Saturday, will miss a cup semifinal second leg tie against Real Sociedad Thursday.

Two minutes after his dismissal, the Mexican having scored moments earlier from a penalty, the home side grabbed the winning goal.

The 2-1 reverse was only Real's third defeat of the season and 24 hours later second-placed Atletico Madrid rubbed salt in the wounds, coming from behind to beat Celta 2-1 at home.

Atletico closed the gap to four points and Argentine coach Luis Menotti said: "It was a great day for us. As I've been saying, this season will be full of surprises and the championship is by no means decided."

Portuguese striker Paulo Futre said: "We're within four points and everything is possible."



Hugo Sanchez

The Dutch title remains PSV Eindhoven's for the taking despite a 0-0 draw at Utrecht Sunday, a marked improvement by Utrecht who lost 9-0 to the champions in August.

PSV, with two draws and no defeats in 21 games, are eight points clear of Ajax Amsterdam, who won a second round cup match at FC Volendam 3-2.

NBA STANDINGS

NEW YORK (R) — Standings of National Basketball Association (NBA) teams after Sunday's games:

Eastern Conference Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston Celtics	34	15	.694	—
Philadelphia 76ers	21	25	.457	11½
Washington Bullets	18	27	.400	14
New York Knicks	17	29	.370	15½
New Jersey Nets	12	36	.250	21½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta Hawks	32	16	.667	—
Detroit Pistons	29	16	.644	1½
Chicago Bulls	28	21	.571	4½
Indiana Pacers	25	22	.532	6
Milwaukee Bucks	23	22	.511	7
Cleveland Cavaliers	25	24	.510	7½

Western Conference Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Dallas Mavericks	30	17	.638	—
Houston Rockets	28	18	.609	1½
Denver Nuggets	28	19	.596	2
Utah Jazz	23	24	.489	7
San Antonio Spurs	18	26	.409	10½
Sacramento Kings	15	31	.326	14½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles Lakers	38	9	.809	—
Portland Trail Blazers	28	18	.609	9½
Seattle SuperSonics	26	22	.542	12½
Phoenix Suns	15	31	.326	22½
Golden State Warriors	12	33	.267	25
Los Angeles Clippers	11	35	.239	26½

NHL STANDINGS

Ice Hockey

NEW YORK (R) — Standings of National Hockey League (NHL) teams after Sunday's games:

Wales Conference Patrick Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia Flyers	28	22	6	62	192	194
Washington Capitals	27	25	6	60	196	181
Pittsburgh Penguins	25	24	9	59	225	229
New York Islanders	26	23	7	59	216	204
New Jersey Devils	26	28	5	57	206	224
New York Rangers	22	27	8	52	218	210

Adams Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Boston Bruins	34	20	5	73	229	187
Montreal Canadiens	30	19	10	70	217	190
Buffalo Sabres	25	24	9	59	199	222
Hartford Whalers	24	25	7	55	174	181
Quebec Nordiques	23	29	4	50	200	212

Campbell Conference Norris Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit Red Wings	28	20	8	64	224	190
St. Louis Blues	26	25	5	57	193	190
Chicago Black Hawks	24	29	5	53	205	234
Minnesota North Stars	16	33	9	41	177	242
Toronto Maple Leafs	17	33	9	43	213	253

Smythe Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary Flames	34	18	6	74	279	218
Edmonton Oilers	32	19	7	71	262	205
Winnipeg Jets	25	22	9	59	214	209
Los Angeles Kings	21	34	5	47	226	267
Vancouver Canucks	19	33	7	45	206	232

Navratilova takes Dallas title, vows to pursue Graf

DALLAS (Agencies) — Martina Navratilova, demonstrating the power game and shot-making style she'll need to unseat Steffi Graf as the world's top woman's player, roared past Pam Shriver, 6-0, 6-3, Sunday in the Virginia Slims of Dallas finals.

A service break in the match's first game set the tone as Navratilova went on to breaks in the third and fifth games.

The third-game break angered Shriver when she was called for a double-fault at deuce. Shriver felt the ball was clearly good but replays showed the serve was near the line.

Shriver got the advantage back two points later, but Navratilova went on to the service-break.

Shriver expressed her anger at the linesman who called the ball out, and at the umpire who refused to overrule the call. She bounced a ball high into the air and kicked a cushion during the changeover.

Shriver's emotion carried over into the first game of the second set as she double-faulted twice to go down a service break.

Navratilova called the match her best since 1986 when she was the undisputed No. 1 player in the world.

"Today I hit the ball better than I did at any time last year," Navratilova said. "Steffi (Graf) still No. 1 but if I put together some matches like I had today, I can overtake her."

Zurbriggen takes gold

MOUNT ALLAN (AP) — Switzerland's Pirmin Zurbriggen, carving precise turns on the tricky upper section of the course where others floundered, overtook teammate Peter Moeller Monday to capture the gold medal in the Olympic men's downhill. Mueller, the first starter, posted a time of 2 minutes, 0.14 seconds, then waited anxiously as the next 12 skiers were unable to better his time. Zurbriggen, starting 14th, gained a quick advantage in negotiating flawlessly the steep technical part of the course on top and came in at 1:59.63, relegating Mueller to the silver medal, 0.51 seconds behind. Franck Piccard of France, who started right after Zurbriggen, took the bronze in 2:01.24.

Alexei Prokhorov of the Soviet Union won the men's 30-kilometre cross-country ski race. Vladimir Smirnov of the



Pirmin Zurbriggen

Soviet Union won the silver and Vegard Ulvang of Norway got the bronze.

In the men's luge, Jens Mueller of East Germany won the Gold, Georg Hackl of West Germany won the silver and Yuri Kharchenko of the Soviet Union got the bronze.

Heroes get more than metal medals

CALGARY (AP) — Victors in the women's cross-country and the men's 70-metre ski jumping got their gold, silver and bronze medals and a lot more: like a lesson in Olympic history, a dose of Canadian heritage and a hi-tech display of lasers and multi-coloured fireworks.

It was nothing like the traditional — and brief — ceremony that normally follows each of the 10 events.

Nearly 20,000 people swathed in goose-down, wool and fur jam-

med the downtown Olympic Plaza Sunday night for the ceremony, which brought the winning athletes down from the slopes of Canmore and Canada Olympic Park, respective venues of cross-country and ski jumping.

The programme will be repeated every night until the Winter Games end Feb. 28.

"Today and the next 14 days belong to the athletes," said Bill Pratt, president of the Calgary Olympic Organising Committee. For nearly 45 minutes, scores

of rope-twirling cowgirls, prancing snowmen, Korean dancers and a chorus of schoolchildren singing "It's A Small World" in French, German, Japanese and English thrilled the shivering crowd.

Highlights of Winter Games, beginning in 1924 and ending with Saturday's opening ceremony at McMahon Stadium, flashed onto giant screens placed around the plaza.

Finally, with a miniature cauldron burning at one end of the plaza and a flame atop the 205-metre Calgary Tower at the other end, the awards ceremony began.

Small children climbed on their parents' backs and stretched their necks hoping to catch a glimpse of the Olympic heroes.

As each athlete was introduced, replays of their winning performances appeared on the video screens.

Lord Killanin, honorary life president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), hung the first medal around the neck of Soviet cross-country skier Vida Ventsene, who won Sunday's 10-kilometre race.

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Cinema

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Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30



Cinema

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THE SECRET OF MY SUCCESS

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30



Jordanian importers complain over new clearing regulations at customs centres

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Importers of consumer goods and farming products are lodging complaints with the customs authorities for what they said were "unnecessary delays" in the release of imported goods currently in the custody of the department.

Importers of farming products, mainly irrigation systems told the Jordan Times that the Customs Department, which exempts irrigation units from custom duties, are now asking importers to make substantial deposits of money as insurance to be repaid after the department makes sure that the irrigation units were used for agricultural purposes. Furthermore, importers say that the department now insists that irrigation units, after they are sold to farmers, must be used as whole units and not divided and used in separate farm projects, otherwise, importers lose their deposits with the department.

The importers argue that many farmers would not buy complete units, many parts of which they

have no need for. The department, however, insists that importers buy whole units, according to the importers.

One importer of irrigation units said that the department's new measures were not based on any existing customs law. The text of the law, made available to the Jordan Times, stipulates that products used for agricultural purposes would be exempted from customs duties. It does not mention anything about their use as whole units.

"The customs authorities are imposing a de facto customs duty on our supposedly exempted imports," the importer, who asked not to be identified, told the Jordan Times. He explained that by insisting on applying the new measures, the department would collect the importers' insurance deposits "as most of the irrigation units are not often sold as whole units."

The importer said that it would have been easier if the concerned authorities allowed the importation of irrigation and other farming equipment in accordance with the needs of the market.

The importer furnished documents that indicate the department had earlier exempted similar material he had imported without asking for a deposit or insisting that it be used as whole units. Documents made available to the Jordan Times showed that officials at the Customs Department and the ministries of agriculture, trade and industry, contradicted each other on whether such measures must be taken in their ruling on imported equipment for agricultural purposes.

"Why should the department have any quarrels about whether they are used as whole units or not as long as they are used for agricultural purposes," the importer said. He added that he was ready to offer the department a guarantee that the imported stuff would only be used for agricultural purposes.

Importers have to pay a certain fee each day for as long as their imports are kept in the custody of the customs authorities. Importers say that the process of clearing goods could take as long as several weeks.

The delays in the release of imported goods are increasing the cost on the importer, importers said.

One importer said that imposing "impossible conditions and unfair penalties" would reflect on an increase in the cost for the farmer buying the products. "This is not going to help the

farming sector in the country." The Jordan Times could not reach Customs Department Director General Adel Qudah for comment.

A similar complaint was lodged by Foodstuff Traders Association Secretary Mohammad Haj Deeb who appealed to concerned authorities for the release of stored commodities at customs centres. He said that according to newly-introduced measures, large stocks of foodstuff are being kept in custody, awaiting results of laboratory tests to determine the safety of the foods for human consumption.

The old practice was to release the goods in return for a financial guarantee by the merchant not to disperse of the goods before the safety check by concerned authorities is terminated.

Haj Deeb, who is a board member of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, said that a recent decision by the concerned authorities has ordered that imported goods remain in the custody of customs centres until after the conclusion of safety tests which could take between 10 to 15 days to terminate.

The association's secretary said that this had hindered the work of importers and increased their costs in addition to the storage problems related to temperatures and the greater risk of damage to commodities.

Kuwait embarks on stock buying spree

KUWAIT (R) — Aggressive but conservative, discreet yet not afraid to cause waves, Kuwait's fund managers have launched a bargain-basement buying spree on depressed world stock markets.

While stunned investors switched from shares into bonds and cash after last October's Black Monday crash, the oil-rich Gulf emirate seized the chance to buy into Western firms, including a controversial stake in British Petroleum (B.P.).

With up to \$5 billion in fresh funds to invest in its current financial year, the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) has emerged as a major player on world stock markets.

"This is the time to allocate much fresh money to big companies in the industrial world in addition to some proportion to bonds and other securities," said Khalid Abu Saud, financial adviser to Kuwaiti Emir Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Abu Saud, who said he was speaking for himself and not KIA, told Reuters he strongly recommended undervalued blue-chip shares that yielded dividends above interest on bank deposits.

Kuwait's reserves are estimated at \$80 billion and bankers say Black Monday probably shaved no more than 10 per cent off its portfolio, reflecting the quality of its stocks, hedging and a limited shift to bonds and cash in mid-1987.

At the head of the Gulf and

exposed to any overspill of the long-running Iran-Iraq war, Kuwait has built up a reputation as one of the region's most sophisticated international investors.

But the strategy of investing abroad was well developed long before the war flared in 1980 — for the past 25 years Kuwait has pumped surplus oil income into foreign firms, real estate and bonds to safeguard its future when the oil runs dry.

"Beautiful investments"

"KIA has a long record of beautiful investments," said Maha Al Ghunaim, vice-president for portfolio management at Kuwait Foreign Trading, Contracting and Investment Co. (KFTCIC) whose clients include KIA. "They have proved themselves many times."

Bankers estimate KIA has up to \$5 billion in new funds to invest in the current fiscal year which ends in June.

This includes some 10 per cent of Kuwait's estimated \$6.3 billion in oil revenue, earmarked every year for what is pointedly called a "Fund for Future Generations."

Earlier investments will generate an extra \$4.4 billion, according to estimates by the National Bank of Kuwait, and bankers expect that to be ploughed back

into markets.

Bankers say the Fund for Future Generations has been shaped into a high-quality portfolio that by law cannot be drawn down until the year 2001. That, they add, gives Kuwait a long-term perspective few international investors can afford.

"Very, very long-term look"

"KIA is very conservative," said KFTCIC's Al Ghunaim. "Quality is the key question... and they are looking at the very, very long-term."

Hard figures on Kuwaiti investments are few, but the most recent official data shows as of June 1985, KIA held foreign securities worth roughly \$36 billion, of which 40 per cent was in Europe and 36 per cent in the United States.

Push into Japan

Bankers say there has since been a big new push into Japan, where stock investments reached \$7.7 billion on the eve of the October crash, double the level two years earlier.

And when the stock crash dampened interest in Britain's sale of 2.19 billion B.P. shares, KIA's London-based subsidiary Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) saw a unique opportunity to gain a foothold in the oil giant without bidding up the share price.

To date, that stake has been built up to 19.37 per cent. The move provoked an outcry in Britain from opposition members of

parliament, who fear Kuwait will seek control of the company to further its own already extensive oil interests in Europe.

KIO has told the British Treasury it has no management ambitions at B.P. and seeks only a long-term investment. But bankers do not rule out it seeking a seat on the board later.

Kuwait has not generally interfered in management even after building up substantial stakes in companies such as West Germany's car maker Daimler-Benz and chemical firm Hoechst.

But bankers believe board representation at B.P. would bring Kuwait obvious advantages — from expertise on how to run an integrated oil multi-national to possible access to crude oil and petrol pump outlets throughout Europe.

Kuwait entered Spain aggressively in 1986 when it was one of Europe's fastest growing stock markets.

KIO has taken a majority share in Union De Explosivos Rio Tinto S.A. (ERT), Spain's biggest chemical company, and a smaller stake in chemical firm S.A. Cros as part of a portfolio in the country worth an estimated \$2.1 billion.

KIO's so far unsuccessful quest for a seat on the ERT board has met stiff opposition. But a company 48.8 per cent owned by KIO is reported to have won representation on the board of Spain's largest commercial bank, Banco Central.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — Shares of 50 public-shareholding companies were traded Monday but those which captured the limelight were Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments (PELE), Cairo-Amman Bank (CAB), Jordan French Insurance (JFI), Jordan Rockwood Industries (JRI) and Arab Aluminium Industry (AAI). 358,029 PELE shares changed hands for a total of JD 82,005 while 4,550 CAB shares amounted to JD 127,405 with the CAB share price rising from JD 27.760 to JD 28.500. Trading in JFI shares was also heavy in terms of volume which totalled JD 90,272 on the exchange of 14,482 shares but the price per share dropped from JD 6.400 to a low of JD 6.000 before closing at JD 6.100. JRI and AAI recorded 76,350 shares for JD 53,195 and 41,250 shares for JD 81,247 respectively without much change in the price. The Arab Bank share fell steeply in price from JD 120.500 to JD 119.500. Overall, 812,040 shares were traded Monday for a total volume of JD 808,817. The dealings were spread over 647 contracts with PELE heading the list with 108 contracts.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1988

YOUR HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will appreciate them more when you get back. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) It is important that you are more thoughtful of your friends and more will be offended. Try to be more pleasant and idealistic. **ARIES** (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) This is a good day to contact some friends who are happy and full of an open and honest manner. Stop life, as these people will improve your mood considerably. **Taurus** (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be innovative in the handling of your money. Show more affection for your mate, routines, and your superiors will be impressed. If you need a favor from someone, ask directly and get it. **GEMINI** (May 21 to June 21) You can make some great new contacts today, but don't get too involved with people you don't know. Be careful while driving. **MOON CHILDREN** (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get your mind off of recreation, and try to be more efficient in your business matters. Do something in which will delight your mate. **LEO** (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You can accomplish a great deal in the business world today, so put home rest in modern techniques and in affairs aside for the time being. Don't overstep tonight. **VIRGO** (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) If you are a born intellectual, and instead of running off on any tangents, stick to your routines and accomplish much. Don't say any-thing harsh to your co-workers. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get away from your family for a while tonight. What you make of your life is largely up to you! © 1988, McNaught Synd.

THE Daily Crossword by Florence C. Adler

ACROSS

- 1 Armadillo
- 5 Crusades
- 9 Crippling remark
- 13 Cram
- 14 Wine grape
- 15 Sloth
- 16 Chl. business district
- 17 Fragrant oil
- 18 Apollo's mother
- 19 "Papa"
- 22 Memo
- 23 John
- 24 Chiefly
- 27 "And" name
- 32 Played a part
- 33 Coeur d'
- 34 Chemistry suffix
- 35 Desideratum
- 36 Ratt
- 37 Pygmy
- 38 Mined
- 39 Diving birds
- 40 Creed
- 41 Smitten
- 42 Tavern
- 43 Mimic
- 44 Eng. river
- 45 Book by 19A
- 46 Uphold
- 47 Paper caps
- 48 Teleran coin
- 49 Counting of ice
- 50 Ule or Amur
- 51 Hilt
- 52 "a song go out"
- 53 Faculty head
- 54 Contained

DOWN

- 1 Proficient
- 2 Indigent
- 3 Shortly
- 4 Alchemist
- 5 Flexible twig
- 6 Poker term
- 7 Gad
- 8 Strill
- 9 Protruding parts
- 10 Again
- 11 Try
- 12 Light the spirits of
- 13 Small pie of meat
- 14 Snoop
- 15 Personage
- 16 Indian
- 17 Inscribed
- 18 Light-colored
- 19 Meadows
- 20 Hangout
- 21 Circle or sanction
- 22 Mince
- 23 Alter drug plant
- 24 Preface
- 25 Scientific investigation
- 26 Long easy stride
- 27 Neophyte: var.
- 28 Trading place
- 29 Angry dog
- 30 Steer or
- 31 Woody
- 32 Hillside
- 33 dugout
- 34 Fall sheet
- 35 Pinnacle
- 36 Ontario's neighbor
- 37 Moltan rock
- 38 Wax
- 39 Hamhandle
- 40 Pung

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7435/45	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2650/60	Canadian dollar
	1.7065/75	Deutschemark
	1.9166/76	Dutch guilders
	1.4025/35	Swiss francs
	35.72/75	Belgian francs
	5.7660/90	French francs
	1257/1258	Italian lire
	130.15/25	Japanese yen
	6.0850/0900	Swedish crowns
	6.4540/90	Norwegian crowns
	6.5230/80	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	443.35/445.85	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Stock prices drifted towards the lower end of a narrow trading range in late trading against the background of a continuing low level of activity.

At 1630 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was 4.7 points up at 1,738.7, having touched a high of 1,742.6.

Lack of institutional involvement in the market highlighted nervousness over recent U.K. industrial unrest and concern over the near-term path of U.K. domestic interest rates, dealers said.

Among the leaders ICI rose 2p to 1,046, Glaxo 6p to 1,031, and British Aerospace 10p to 355 while Fisons lost 7p to 247.

Wall Street's closure for Washington's birthday further contributed to the listless tone, dealers said.

News that Ford Motor will meet representatives of its 32,000 striking workforce Tuesday in a bid to settle the week-old stoppage helped market sentiment.

Dealers said, however, there was concern that if Ford agrees to the union demands this may encourage further industrial unrest.

Egypt widens scope for debt repayments

CAIRO (R) — Egypt took action Sunday to plug what bankers called a loophole in its foreign exchange system by authorising private firms to buy dollars at the free-market rate to repay debts.

Bankers will be allowed to allocate about 10 per cent of their hard currency earnings to private-sector clients who need dollars to repay debts, a senior official said.

He said the regulation would apply to payments due from Sunday but would not be retroactive. Companies indebted to foreign suppliers would get priority.

Under foreign exchange rules introduced last May, a committee of bankers meets daily to set a rate for the Egyptian pound, 2.24 to the dollar Sunday.

This free-market rate applied for limited purposes, including opening letters of credit. But until Sunday, private firms had trouble finding dollars to pay off hard currency debts estimated by bankers at \$3.5 billion.

Rafiq Suweilam, first under-secretary for foreign exchange at the ministry of economy, said banks were being notified of the

decision, which applied only to private firms without hard currency resources.

He told Reuters the measure was not linked to a standby accord with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last May, which included a pledge by Egypt to unify its system of multiple exchange rates over 18 months.

The government set up the free-market system last May in an attempt to kill the black market and increase transfers of dollars through the banks.

Suweilam said about \$2.5 billion had been channelled to the official market since last May. Over \$1.2 billion of this had been used to open credits for private-sector imports and about \$1 billion was used for public-sector needs.

He declined to reveal when the government planned to unify all exchange rates. In addition to the free-market rate, it operates a commercial rate for some purposes, 1.97 last week, and has a book-keeping rate of 0.70.

Iraq accuses Iran of selling oil cheaply

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi accused Iran Monday of selling its oil below the official price of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

"Iran is offering quantities of its oil in prices, less than OPEC's, with rates reaching between \$1.5 to \$2 per barrel (below the OPEC level)," Chalabi told reporters.

Both Iran and Iraq are members of OPEC whose official price is \$18 per barrel.

Chalabi, whose country has been at war with Iran for more than seven years, was speaking after the opening of an Arab symposium on the oil and gas

industry.

He said dealing in the international oil market was still "cautious, despite some signs of improvement on the part of oil producers within and outside OPEC."

The minister said Iraq was prepared to do everything in its power to help OPEC achieve stability in oil prices.

Oteiba urges Japan to cooperate with OPEC

United Arab Emirates (UAE) Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Mana Said Oteiba Monday called on Japan to cooperate with OPEC to achieve world oil market stability.

Oteiba, on his third day of a week-long official visit to Japan, told his hosts such a stability was beneficial to the world economy, the Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported from Tokyo.

The latest developments in the oil market and the situation in the Gulf were the focus of discussion held in Tokyo Monday between Oteiba and Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno.

According to WAM, Oteiba said the UAE has exerted "tremendous efforts" to stabilise the market around the \$18 a barrel benchmark, immediately after the last OPEC meeting held in Vienna in December.

Japan's trade surplus falls

TOKYO (R) — Japan's trade surplus fell for the ninth straight month in January, but economists said they were disappointed that the figures released Monday showed that improvements in the imbalance may be slowing.

Although the surplus fell to \$3.07 billion in January from \$4.31 billion a year earlier, it was well above the \$2.4 billion economists had anticipated.

"The pace of drops for the Japanese surplus is slowing down, even though the downward trend has not changed," said Soichiro Akahane, economist for the Bank of Tokyo.

Peanuts

OUR GUEST TODAY IS A FAMOUS ACTRESS...

SHE'S HERE TO TELL US ABOUT HER FORMER LIVES AND TO ANSWER ALL YOUR QUESTIONS...

HERE'S WHAT WE DO... I GIVE YOU THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS, AND YOU...

NO, WE DON'T! CLICK!

Mutt'n' Jeff

HEAR YE, HEAR YE—THE TOWN CRIER REPORTS—MARYANNE WILL NOT REACH PORT TONIGHT!

SHUT UP!

—AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR—DO YOU HAVE A HEADACHE AND CAN'T SLEEP? THEN TRY BOFFO TABLETS!

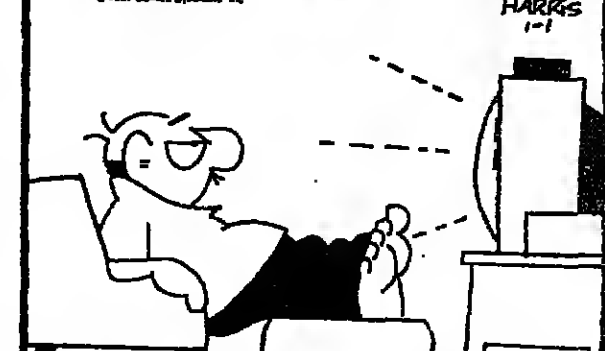
Andy Capp

OKAY, PET? OKAY, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO CUT DOWN—I'M JUST NOT GETTING BY ON MY WAGES THESE DAYS.

WHAT'S THAT PET? FORGET IT!

WHEN IT COMES TO PREACHING ECONOMY TO MY BLOKE YOU MAY AS WELL START BY SAVING YOUR BREATH.

THE BETTER HALF By Harris



"We interrupt this program to urge you not to change channels! It gets better — honest!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

COINT

NAHEY

ZEWEH

DUBOYE

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN AN EMPLOYEE FELL INTO A HUGE VAT OF GUM?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: HE WAS... (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumble: FAITH GRIMY ANKLET OUTBO

Answer: Another name for coffee—"BREAK" FLUID

هذه هي الحياة

NPA-troop clashes claim 24 more lives

House rejects Aquino call for 'emergency rule'

MANILA (R) — The Philippine House of Representatives, in a special vote Monday, rejected any government move to bring back emergency rule to fight the Philippine Communist insurgency.

Representatives said in a resolution they strongly opposed "any plans to place the whole or some parts of the country under martial rule, or to declare such part in a state of emergency or any plan that would... (curtail) the constitutional rights and liberties of the Filipino people."

The measure, unanimously passed in the 203-seat house, followed a call by the military for wider powers to fight Communist rebels, including authority to detain suspects without court warrants or charging them.

Earlier Monday, Philippine President Corazon Aquino said she was consulting her defence chief on the military's request.

Killings continue in countryside, south

Around the countryside, 24 people were killed in fighting between Communist rebels and soldiers. Another nine died in the southern island of Sulu in election violence.

On Sunday, 15 Communist New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas and six soldiers died in heavy fighting in Davao Oriental province in Southern Mindanao, area commander General Mariano Adaleno said Monday.

About 2,500 villagers near the combat area fled their homes in fear and sought refuge in a nearby town, as government forces pursued retreating rebels.

The private Manila radio station

DZRH said three soldiers and six followers of woman mayoral candidate Rizza Tan were killed in clashes between warring political groups vying for local seats in Monday's special elections on the Muslim island of Sulu.

The fighting in Maimbung town involved Tan's group and supporters of her opponent, Maldiva Abdurajik, and soldiers had tried to break up the battle which began Sunday.

The military said two helicopters bearing Mindanao area commander Major-General Cesar Tapia, two election commissioners and several journalists were fired at from the ground as they were landing in Maimbung. No one was hurt.

Aquino told reporters Monday she had asked Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos for his recommendations on army demands for virtual martial law powers, and was still awaiting his reply.

Congressman Rodolfo Gutang said he was drafting a proposed national security act providing for wider army arrest powers and selective imposition of curfews in a tough response to rebel escalation of the war.

Gutang said the bill, expected to be debated in the house of representatives this week, would not be an outright declaration of martial law but would have some of its features.

Thirteen congressmen, led by

majority leader Francisco Sumulong, Aquino's uncle, immediately opposed the Gutang proposal, and filed a resolution asking the chamber to "strongly oppose" any declaration of martial law or a limited state of emergency.

Former president Ferdinand Marcos also used martial law to fight rebels, but the rebellion only escalated as military abuses drove peasants into joining rebel groups.

Military estimates put current rebel strength at about 25,000 compared to a few hundred early in Marcos' rule.

In other incidents, suspected Communist hit-men Monday shot to death a narcotics agent as he slowed down his car at a Manila railway crossing.

Aquino's land 'confiscated'

A Communist-led peasants' group claims it has confiscated more than 600 hectares (1,482 acres) of land in Aquino's home region over the past two years and redistributed it to farmers who had no land.

The National Alliance of Peasants in Central Luzon claimed in a statement received in Manila Monday that it also has raised the salaries of farm workers.

The alliance claimed that farm workers' daily wages had been raised from a low of eight pesos (40 cents) to as much as 60 pesos (\$3).

Aquino endorsed land reform last July. Legislation on land reform is pending in congress. The president's family owns 6,000 hectares (14,828 acres) of land in Tarlac province, which is north of Manila.

Thirteen congressmen, led by

Laos, Thailand to hold talks on ending border war

BANGKOK (AP) — A Laotian military team will arrive Tuesday for talks on ending the escalating battle with Thailand over a disputed border area, Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda announced Monday.

But Prem played down expectations for an immediate solution.

The Laotians are to meet with a Thai team headed by Army Commander General Chaovalit Yongchaiyuth for one day of talks, Prem said.

"We cannot hope for much," the premier told reporters. "On whether or not we can resolve the problem, we would have to talk first."

Prem said he did not consider the meeting a formal negotiation, which would have to involve other top officials.

An official Laotian radio broadcast monitored in Bangkok Monday said General Sisavat Keobounphan, chief of general staff of the Lao People's Army, would head the four-member Laotian team.

Curfew raised for Tamil festival in Sri Lanka

BATTICALOA, Sri Lanka (R)

Security forces hunting separatist rebels Monday lifted a 24-hour-a-day curfew clamped on Sri Lanka's eastern district of Batticaloa since Thursday to let residents prepare for a Tamil festival.

The curfew was relaxed to allow residents to go shopping for the Maha Sivaratri (Holy Night of Lord Shiva) festival Tuesday, security sources said.

Residents said they expected the curfew to be reimposed after the festival when Indian troops resume house-to-house searches for Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrillas in the town and outlying villages.

"The curfew and search operation" launched Thursday flushed out at least 120 suspected rebels.

"We anticipate another curfew so we're stocking up for about five to six days," said T. Yogen, 41, picking out goods at a city market. "Maybe after Tuesday it will be reimposed."

Fish and vegetable prices have risen by up to 50 per cent, another shopper, Permayan Ravi, said.

Ershad says army will be deployed for elections

DHAKA (Agencies) Bangladesh President Hossain Muhammad Ershad Monday called on the army to ensure law and order during Bangladesh's parliamentary elections on March 3.

"We shall deploy the army and take all other security measures to ensure the peaceful holding of the parliamentary elections," the state radio quoted him as telling the annual parade of ansars, auxiliary policemen, near Dhaka.

The soldiers would be in addition to tens of thousands of paramilitary policemen already sent around the country to prevent further political violence.

Ershad's decision to deploy

troops followed requests by politicians for tighter security after at least 152 people were killed and 8,000 injured in bombings and gunbattles between rival political groups during rural council elections last Wednesday.

Government sources said frightened leaders of Ershad's Jatiya Party and several fringe groups made the requests when they met the president Sunday night.

Opposition parties led by Ershad's arch-foes Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina and Bangladesh Nationalist Party Leader Begum Khaleda Zia have vowed to disrupt the parliament

ary elections.

Hasina told reporters Sunday night she had so far received reports of more than 500 people being killed in the rural vote carnage.

"The toll may cross the 1,000 mark when reports from the remote areas will be available," she said and blamed Jatiya for the bloodbath.

Hasina and Zia have coordinated a four-month-long series of strikes and demonstrations aimed at forcing Ershad to resign. Ershad dissolved parliament and called for new elections after the protests had continued for several weeks.

Ershad's decision to deploy

12 killed over weekend in South Africa's Natal province

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Twelve people, aged between 15 and 70, were killed in one of the most violent weekends in a year-old black-against-black war raging in South Africa's Natal province.

Police said Monday that 10 people died in the province Sunday. Among them were a 70-year-old man and his wife, aged 60, a 61-year-old woman found with her throat slit and a 15-year-old youth shot dead.

Police had reported two fatalities Saturday in Natal, where over 400 people have died violently in the past year in a contest for power between the radical United Democratic Front (UDF) and the conservative Inkatha Movement of the Zulu tribe.

The latest fighting, mainly in townships near the provincial capital, Pietermaritzburg, was reported soon after the chief of the

Zulu tribe, South Africa's biggest, called on the UDF, the country's largest anti-apartheid coalition, to seek a truce.

Police said the elderly couple were found dead with stab wounds at Taylor's Halt township, where the 61-year-old woman and a man, aged 27, were also killed with knives.

Two youths, aged 15 and 18, were killed by gunfire at Shongweni, police said in a daily report on nationwide political violence.

In recent months, the report has been dealing almost exclusively with the Natal internecine strife.

The police said a group of men hurled petrol bombs at a house in Kwaqenge township.

"As the occupants fled the house, numerous shots were fired at them. In the process, three black women and a black man were fatally wounded and two black youths injured," the statement said.

Key Afghan rebel leader sceptical about Soviet pullout

NEW YORK (R) — A key Afghan resistance leader, in an interview published Sunday, expressed scepticism about Soviet announcements that Moscow was prepared to start pulling its soldiers out of Afghanistan by May 15.

Asked if the Afghan refugees in Pakistan were excited about the prospective Soviet withdrawal, Abdul Haq told Newsweek magazine: "People are very excited. But this is not the first time the Soviets have talked about leaving. We are used to it. I do not believe them."

The 29-year-old commander said Soviet bombing and artillery attacks continued and were increasing.

"We would very much like for the Soviets to go and leave us alone. They say they will leave but they give no details. What

will happen to (government leader) Najib and his puppet government? How will the withdrawal take place?" said Haq, who was interviewed in Peshawar.

Haq said neither the Americans, nor the Pakistanis, nor Afghan leader Najib's government could help the Soviet forces leave Afghanistan. "The only people who can help the Soviets leave Afghanistan are the Mujahideen. The Soviets must speak to us," he said.

He disputed Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's call for an end to foreign intervention saying: "Who is Gorbachev to talk about foreign intervention? When he cuts his vein, is it Afghan blood which flows? We are fighting to defend our country. How do you call that a foreign intervention?"

Paraguay president wins eighth term amidst vote fraud charges

ASUNCION, Paraguay (Agencies) — General Alfredo Stroessner, the Western hemisphere's longest ruling head of state, won an eighth consecutive term as Paraguay's president by a landslide Sunday over two lawyers whose names were unknown to most Paraguayans.

Paraguayan Interior Minister Sabino Montanaro, head of the ruling Colorado Party, said in a nationally broadcast speech that the party's list of candidates, led by Stroessner, had won 89 per cent of the ballots.

No one doubted Stroessner would win because the overwhelming majority of the 1.4 million registered voters belong to his ruling Colorado Party. Many Paraguayans are required to join the party to hold govern-

ment jobs and do business with the state.

The official tally recorded a small number of protest votes, but opposition leaders claimed the Colorado Party had rigged the outcome, which was similar to the result in 1983.

Domingo Laino, leader of the banned Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) — the largest opposition group — said 60 to 65 per cent of the nation's registered voters had stayed away from the polls.

"The election was a farce," he told reporters outside party headquarters, which had been closed by the police.

Laino was one of about 10 opposition leaders detained during the day en route to anti-election demonstrations.

Dole, Dukakis seen favoured in New Hampshire primary

GOFFSTOWN, New Hampshire (R) — Republican presidential candidates turned on Senator Robert Dole Sunday as the man to beat, while Vice-President George Bush tried to stay above the fray in the last debate before Tuesday's New Hampshire primary election.

Bush, however, made an impassioned plea as the debate ended Sunday night, telling voters: "Here I stand with you and all I don't articulate, but don't take that for lack of passion or lack of belief."

To some in the audience, it seemed as if Bush, who last month held a 20-point lead in state-wide opinion polls, was begging for votes in the first primary of the election year.

New polls showed him either locked in a dead heat with Dole or slipping behind into second place following his shocking third-place finish in the Iowa caucuses a week ago.

On the Democrat side, the polls showed Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis widening his lead over six rivals, leaving the real battle for second place — between Missouri Congressman Richard Gephardt and Illinois Senator Paul Simon.

The Republican candidates sparred on Afghanistan, budget and tax policy, Central America and whether ordinary Americans should be tested for the AIDS virus.

Former television evangelist Pat Robertson startled his rivals with the assertion that the Soviet Union had deployed SS-4 and SS-5 nuclear missiles in Cuba, raising the spectre of another missile crisis between the superpowers.

Noriega's attorneys say files are 'political dynamite'

MIAMI (AP) — Lawyers for General Manuel Noriega say the Panamanian strongman has "dynamite" information that could influence the American presidential election, and they threatened to use the files "if we have to."

"We were given access by General Noriega to files which contain political dynamite — files which could affect the upcoming presidential election in the United States and the positions of other nations," Raymond Takiff said Sunday after arriving at Miami International Airport. He refused to elaborate.

"Right now, we're just going to sit tight with them (the files). If we have to use them, we'll use them," said Frank Rubino, another defence lawyer, later in response to a question.

Takiff added, "General Noriega told us that he has always been a friend of the United States and is still a friend of the United States."

Noriega was indicted on drug trafficking charges by federal grand juries in Miami and Tampa, Florida, earlier this month.

Minority students get support in protest at U.S. university

AMHERST, Massachusetts (AP) — Black, Hispanic, Native American and Asian students occupying a University of Massachusetts building for a third day say a church pledged money to help them and restaurants have donated hot meals.

"We haven't even had to leave the building to buy food," Rio Gabriel, 21, a junior from Toronto said Sunday.

The estimated 125 demonstrators have held the New Africa House on the UMass campus since Friday to protest an attack on two black students allegedly beaten by whites and other recent incidents at the school.

Protesters allowed reporters into a small room on the ground floor of the hall to answer questions. The building showed no signs of demonstrations being planned, such as banners or pickets, and there were no police officers outside.

Protesters said they would occupy the four-storey brick

Robertson, who has never held a government post, was vague about his source, saying he had been told his information by a someone on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The other candidates made no comment on Robertson's claim, but afterwards a key Dole backer here, New Hampshire Senator Warren Rudman, said Robertson was way off the mark. "I don't know if he has access to intelligence numbers, but I do. It's not so," he said. "It's the first I've ever heard of it."

After the debate, Robertson's campaign manager, Marc Nuttle said the candidate had information that delivery systems, not warheads, were now in Cuba. He said the information came in part from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "We are protecting our source," he said.

Congressman Jack Kemp of New York and former Delaware governor Pierre Du Pont tried to portray both Bush and Dole as advocates of higher taxes, but they reserved their sharpest attacks for Dole.

Dole was caught off-guard when Du Pont thrust a paper he said was a pledge not to raise taxes. "Sign it," he demanded.

"I want to read it first, maybe George will," said Dole, the Senate Republican leader from Kansas, who squirmed at his opponent's ploy.

Kemp, who is trying desperately to re-establish his candidacy among party conservatives now flirting with Robertson, also took a swipe at Bush, charging the State Department was bending to Soviet demands in Afghanistan in the hopes of a May 15 Russian troop pullout.

Takiff, Rubino and fellow lawyers Neal Sonnett and Steven Kolkin conferred Friday with their client, Panama's de facto leader, Sonnett, the former chief of the criminal division in the Miami U.S. attorney's office, and Kolkin returned to Miami from Panama City Saturday. Takiff and Rubino returned Sunday.

The defence attorneys also have "material which portrays the long and intricate involvement of Jose Blandon, former Panamanian consul general in New York, with the Communist Party in both Panama and Puerto Rico," Takiff said.

Blandon was a witness before the Miami federal grand jury that indicted Noriega, and has testified before a U.S. congressional subcommittee about Noriega's alleged involvement in cocaine trafficking. He also alleged that the CIA provided Noriega with confidential information on Senators Edward Kennedy and Jesse Helms, which the CIA denied.

"He (Blandon) wants to be the next president of Panama," Takiff said.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Exercise-fertility link probed

BOSTON (R) — Women who exercise regularly to stay thin can significantly reduce the likelihood of breast and reproductive cancer but may have considerable difficulty conceiving, medical researchers said Sunday. Doctors at the annual conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Science said they were increasingly finding complex links between the female hormone oestrogen, fat production, fertility and cancer. Those links can leave women with a confusing set of factors to consider when making decisions about pregnancy, they said. Dr. Rose Frisch, associate professor at Harvard School of Public Health, told the conference that women who want to be fashionably thin cannot always accept that they must stop exercising in order to get pregnant. "You'd be amazed at the number of ladies that see this as a terrible problem. They like to stay nice and lean," she said. Frisch cited recent studies that showed women who undertake a moderate exercise, such as running three kilometres a day, face a very high risk of menstrual irregularity leading to infertility. She connected the drop in fertility to a "lack of fatness." In addition, researchers found that adolescent girls who are very active in sports do not begin menstruating until an average age of 15½, three years later than normal. "As women become excessively lean they become infertile," in part because of the large number of calories required for ovulation, conception and pregnancy, she said.

British police smash dogfighting ring

LONDON (R) — British police smashed an underworld dogfighting ring and arrested 12 spectators Sunday in the biggest such raid since the gamblers' blood-sport was banned a century ago. Scotland Yard said. Police swooped on a dog fight held secretly on waste ground near London's Heathrow Airport. At least two dogs were taken away injured. The men arrested face possible jail terms of six months and heavy fines. A spokesman for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) said: "Dogfighting has been on the rise in the last five years as some people seem to be looking for brutal ways of getting kicks. It's a barbaric sport and has become big business," he added.

Research shows smart brains use less energy

BOSTON (R) — The brains of smart people use less energy than the brains of those who are less intelligent, probably because they are wired more efficiently, new research has shown. Dr. Richard Haier told the American Association for the Advancement of Science Sunday that brain scans have revealed people who score highest on intelligence tests have brains that consume the least amount of energy-giving blood sugar. "Although one might assume that a good performer's brain would 'work harder' than that of a subject who did poorly, our data suggest that the opposite is true," he said. The results are preliminary, he said, but they suggest smarter people may have brains whose nerve cells are more densely wired. Haier is an associate professor of psychiatry and human behaviour at the University of California at Irvine.

Nicaraguan U.N. ambassador dies

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Nora Astorga, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations who gained fame during the Sandinista Revolution for juring a general to his death, died Sunday of cancer. She was 39. The death was reported Sunday in a statement released from Agendas International, the New York-based public relations firm that represents the Nicaraguan government. In 1978, Astorga induced General Reynaldo Perez Vega, deputy commander of the National Guard, to her bedroom where guerrillas cut his throat. Perez Vega served in the government of Nicaraguan president Anastasio Somoza, who was ousted by the Sandinistas in July 1979. Astorga said Sandinista accomplices tried to subdue Perez Vega but, when he resisted, they killed him. The original plan was to kidnap Perez Vega and release him in exchange for 59 Sandinista prisoners, she said. In 1984, the United States rejected her as the proposed ambassador to the United States. She held the rank of deputy foreign minister at the time. American officials said the administration of President Ronald Reagan regarded her as unsuitable in view of her involvement in the slaying of Perez Vega. Astorga was appointed ambassador to the United Nations in February 1986. A spokesman for the Nicaraguan government, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said she returned to Nicaragua because of the illness in January.

Broadway composer Frederick Loewe dies

PALM SPRINGS, California (R) — Frederick Loewe, who teamed with Alan Jay Lerner to compose such hit musicals as "My Fair Lady," "Camelot" and "Gigi," died Sunday night of a heart attack, hospital officials said. Loewe, who was 86, was admitted to the Desert Hospital Wednesday night and remained in the intensive care unit there until he died. Loewe, who also wrote the music for "Brigadoon" and "Paint Your Wagon," once declared: "I don't like my music, but what is my opinion against that of millions of others?" Twice divorced, Loewe said he might have preferred to spend his life playing Bach and Mozart, but Broadway paid more.

Police seize heroin in Bombay, Delhi raids

NEW DELHI (AP) — Indian narcotics agents seized about 48 kilograms (106 pounds) of heroin valued at 500 million rupees (\$38.5 million) in raids Saturday in Bombay, the United News of India (UNI) reported. In New Delhi, a suspect in a drug-smuggling case jumped to his death Friday while he was being interrogated by narcotics agents, the news agency said. More than 3 kilograms (6.6 pounds) of heroin valued at 35 million rupees (\$2.7 million) were confiscated, it added. India has stepped up drug enforcement activities in recent years under pressure from Western nations. India has increasingly been used by smugglers as a trans-shipment point for drugs moving to Europe and North America. The Narcotics Control Bureau, which is responsible for drug enforcement, said it was acting on a tip when it raided two buildings in the Bombay dockyard, UNI said. Opium and hashish also were seized, it said, and one man was arrested. In New Delhi, the drugs were found in a raid on a commercial office, UNI said.

'Mercy killing' article sparks debate

CHICAGO (AP) — A grand jury has requested all records linked to a "mercy killing" essay written by a doctor whose identity has not been disclosed by the Journal of the American Medical Association (AMA), a newspaper reported Sunday. The essay, titled "It's over, Debbie," has sparked debate about the ethics of euthanasia. Medical experts and prosecutors have urged the journal to release the name of the doctor who wrote the article. The essay, which AMA officials admit wasn't verified, describes how an exhausted gynaecology resident gave a fatal injection of morphine to a young woman suffering from ovarian cancer. Some doctors have questioned whether the incident ever took place. The Chicago Sun-Times said the grand jury wants the cover letter from the author, the original manuscript and all correspondence between the journal and the author. The Cook County grand jury also has subpoenaed any in-house memos about the essay and minutes from editorial staff meetings concerning the Jan. 8 article, the Sun-Times said, citing sources it did not name.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND DIMAR SHAPIRO
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠9 ♠A983 ♠AQ74 ♠J1082
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠107 ♠Q93 ♠K1095432 ♠8
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
3 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q9852 ♠A107 ♠KJ62 ♠46
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J782 ♠983 ♠AK8 ♠762
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQJ762 ♠9 ♠K105 ♠AK9
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠865 ♠AQJ ♠1083 ♠AQ72
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Jordan Times Tel: 667171

Firestone delegation in Jordan

AMMAN — A high-level delegation from the American Firestone Tire Company arrived in Amman recently for a visit upon the invitation of the Mediterranean Trading Corporation, the agents of Firestone



in Jordan. V.J. Sardes, L. Kleinbussink and I. Fazah are in Jordan to pursue the com-

panies development plans with Mediterranean Trading Corporation.